

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

No. 38.

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

ABSENTERS.

"THE poor man's church!" This is the favourite descriptive title of our national establishment. Where she picked it up is a matter of small consequence. Certain it is, that she piques herself upon her exclusive right to the designation, parades it in the senate, and smirkingly sets it off in the palace. Herein she exhibits no uncommon trait of human nature. A sensitive jealousy for our reputation, in regard to precisely those qualifications in which we are most deficient, is proverbial. The scholar, erudite beyond all living competitors, has been known to cherish a more restless anxiety to make good his pretensions to horsemanship than to learning, and grave divines will occasionally be better pleased with a compliment upon the graceful shape of their legs, than upon the success with which they have grasped apparently unmanageable truths, and the eloquent power with which they have wielded them. In such cases, neither the horsemanship nor the legs are above mediocrity—and, by a sort of sliding scale, concern for men's favourable estimate of them rises just in proportion as they sink, and is then most eager when they are most ridiculous. So the richest and most aristocratic church in "all this world" assumes the title of "the poor man's church;" and although, of all classes of society, the poor are least affected by her ministrations, and least affect them, nothing chagrins her more than to question the validity of her pretensions in this matter.

Doubtless she ought to be, what she is so anxious to secure the reputation of being. That vast provision set apart by this nation for the support of the clergy—those innumerable cares and difficulties which the maintenance of the establishment devolves upon the state—that discontent which favouritism is sure to engender in the minds of dissenters—that incessant distraction of social peace which compulsory ecclesiastical enactments never failed to produce—the arrogance and sour mindedness of priesthood—the subserviency of character begotten by toleration—the numbness of Christian will-
hood resulting from a transference of responsibility from individuals to the legislature—these are stupendous sacrifices to make and evils to be incurred, which nothing whatever can justify but the sound and successful religious education of the masses. The working men comprise the great bulk of our population. The aristocracy and the middle classes need no establishment, for they are abundantly able to provide religious instruction for themselves. Except for the poor, one cannot see the meaning of so cumbersome, costly, and disagreeable an apparatus of means and appliances. Unless, consequently, this be emphatically a poor man's church, it is a dead failure—and the continued maintenance of the system is as arrant an imposture as craft ever practised upon credulity. It may be from a secret consciousness of this, that the clergy vociferate this title with a show of angry impatience of dispute, which reveals their fear lest they should be called upon to prove its fitness—it may be from a conviction of what ought to be, that the church blows its trumpet at the corner of every street, to make men believe that what ought to be, is.

In one sense the clergy are quite correct in designating the establishment "the poor man's church"—for certainly poor men do much to support it. First of all, a fourth part of the property now enjoyed by the successors in an unbroken line of the apostles, constituted the sacred inheritance of the poor. What, therefore, is so largely enriched, by an unblushing spoliation of the "vested rights" of poverty, may not inaptly be denominated as peculiarly "the poor man's." Then, towards its support the poor man largely contributes. For although, unhappily, there are few cases in which he has a strip of garden to be tithed, every mouth that eats pays heavily to the establishment, in the enhancement of the price of bread necessarily caused by state church demands. For nothing is more evident than that the consumer ultimately pays the burdens which fall upon the cultivator of the soil. Of these burdens, tithe and poor rates may be considered the bulk. The poor, who are the chief consumers of bread, mainly support this plethoric ecclesiastical corporation. They are robbed in every direction. They had once a sufficient estate to meet their wants—this has been taken from them by our most beneficent establishment; and to meet the deficiency, a tax under the name of poor rate is laid upon the bread they eat; and lest they should not be sufficiently interested in an institution to which their whole patrimony has been transferred, a further tax to three times the amount is laid upon the chief article of their subsistence, in the shape of tithe. The money which flows into the

coffers of the church seems to come from the agriculturists—just as the water which pours into a neighbouring pond appears to come from the various drains which directly open into it. But in reality the drain is only the contrivance by which moisture may be drawn from the surrounding soil, and the channel through which it runs—the agriculturists only collect in pence, paid by the poor for bread, the sums transferred by them at the annual tithe audit. Food pays the establishment, and sustains its burnished dignity—and those who eat most bread ultimately pay most largely towards the expenses of priesthood. Not altogether without reason, therefore, is our national church called "the poor man's church"—for, assuredly, he is the main contributor to its wealth.

Of a truth, one would do no great violence to reason, were he to conclude that the flock thus fleeced by indirect exaction, would be permitted to enjoy unmolested the benefits arising from being penned up within the sacred fold. But no! Bald-headed infancy and simplicity, carried up to the font by sponsors, to be regenerated by water and the sign of the cross, is not allowed to depart without leaving behind it a legal fee. Maternal gratitude, strongly impregnated with superstition, cannot express itself in public assembly without having first deposited its fee. Rustic love cannot contract connubial ties until it has duly paid its fee. Poverty, immured in a workhouse, cannot be spiritually cared for until, by somebody, the fee has been secured. Death itself is not exempt from taxation in "the poor man's church," and the rights of sepulture are given only in exchange for a fee. Money—money—money—nothing can be done in this church without money.

Well! what is the issue? This "poor man's church," which draws its chief wealth from the hard-earnings of the industrious, is filled with every class of worshipers but the poor. They may enter the church porch without money and without price—and so may the squire who sleeps out the service in his well-carpeted and comfortable pew. In this respect both are on a level—but here ends the similarity. The poor man is thrust into the aisle, or takes his place upon the ill-placed benches set apart to destitution. This is all he gets in return for the sacrifices he makes. The poor, therefore, constitute a large and numerous sect by themselves. They are not dissenters, but they are almost universally absenter. Few of them care to show themselves in any place of worship. Taught to regard the church of England as the only true church of Christ on earth, and observing that it does little else than fleece and worry the poor, they come to the conclusion that Christianity is but a system of priestcraft, and give themselves up, not to infidelity, for that is positive, but to absenterism, which is merely negative.

By every kind of evidence which the subject will admit of—by the confessions of the most strenuous advocates of the compulsory system—by statistics which cannot err—by complaints which undesignedly let out the truth—the fact is established beyond all contradiction that "the poor man's church" has neither gained the confidence, nor won the attachment, nor secured the piety, of the masses. The want of church accommodation does not account for this. In crowded cities there is no excess of attendance—in villages, where every soul in the parish has ample church room, absenter are as numerous in proportion to the whole population, as in towns where churches are too few to contain a tenth part of the people. Be the reason what it may, the experiment has most signally failed. A stated provision for the clergy has turned out anything but a successful method of meeting the spiritual wants of the labouring classes, or of bringing into a temper of loyalty to the Supreme the great bulk of the inhabitants of this land. The whole thing is an impudent and very costly pretence—a mode of taxing the poor for the advantage of the rich, under the artful guise of levying upon the rich for the benefit of the poor.

Here, then, we close this branch of our argument. In our opening address we promised to demonstrate the evils, political, philosophical, and religious, inseparable from a state church. Two divisions of our subject are now disposed of—and in our next volume we shall as speedily as possible dismiss the third. Under this second branch, after an examination of the axiom that "it is the unquestionable duty of the state to provide for the religious instruction of the people"—an examination which, we believe, reduced the proposition to an absurdity, we proceeded to show the effects worked out by the practical application of this maxim, upon the system of revealed truth itself, upon the clergy who proclaim it, upon the members of the establishment who assent to it, upon the vast body of dissenters who are tolerated by it, upon religious voluntaryism, and

upon the mass of the poorer inhabitants of this country. And we have seen that the theory of an establishment is not more inconsistent and contradictory, than are the effects of it in all directions disastrous and destructive. As a spiritual institution we are warranted in pronouncing the church of England to be at once a blunder, a failure, and a hoax.

BRAINTREE CHURCH RATE CASE.

OUR readers will remember that Mr. Burder, who resisted this case, and defeated the former attempt of the churchwardens to enforce an illegal church rate, felt compelled to recede from the position he was in. He felt, as we understand, that because he had covenanted to pay church rates he was bound to pay them, legal or illegal. This being his logic some friend paid his rate.

The churchwardens have now served another parishioner, Mr. John Gosling, with a citation, of which the following is a copy. Mr. Gosling, we believe, is not under any such *gentle pressure* as that which compelled Mr. Burder to withdraw from the contest.

"Charles James, by divine permission, Bishop of London, to all and singular clerks and literate persons whomsoever and wheresoever in and throughout our whole diocese of London, greeting. We do hereby authorise empower and strictly enjoin and command you jointly and severally peremptorily to cite or cause to be cited John Gosling, a parishioner, of the parish of Braintree, in the county of Essex, and diocese of London, personally or by his proctor, duly constituted to appear before the Right Honourable Stephen Lushington, Doctor of Laws, our vicar general and official principal of our consistorial and episcopal court of London, lawfully constituted, his surrogate, or some other competent judge in this behalf, in the common hall of Doctors Commons, situate in the parish of Saint Benedict, near Paul's Wharf, London, and place of judicature, there on the sixth day after the service of these presents, if it be a general session by day or additional day of our said court, otherwise on the general session by day or additional court day of our said court, then next following at the hour of the sitting of the court, and there to abide during the sitting of the court if necessary then and there to answer to Augustus Charles Veley and Thomas Joslin, the churchwardens of the said parish of Braintree, in the county of Essex, and diocese of London, in a certain cause of subtraction of church rate. And further to do and receive as unto law and justice shall appertain under pain of the law and contempt thereof at the promotion of the said Charles Veley and Thomas Joslin. And what you shall do or cause to be done in or about the premises, you shall duly certify to our said vicar general and official principal, his surrogate, or some other competent judge in this behalf together with these presents. Dated at London, the twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one, and in the fourteenth year of our translation. IGGULDEN, Proctor.

"Citation, subtraction of church rate.
IGGULDEN, PUCKLE and PUCKLE."

It would seem as though all the proceedings of these Ecclesiastical Courts were studiously made obscure.

Their proceedings have been examined, reported upon, and condemned, and yet no movement is made to reform them, even in their administration.

We ask any man to tell how a poor defendant is to know whether the 6th day after the service of that citation will be "a general session by day or additional court day," of the Consistorial and Episcopal Court of London? And supposing he had ascertained this fact, how he is to ascertain whether it is necessary that he should there abide during the sitting of the court?

It will be answered by some lively proctor's clerk—"Oh! he has only to apply to a proctor." To which we answer, the suit is generally for a few shillings, and the man must walk to London and back, 80 miles at least, to find out a proctor; and has not then, perhaps, as much money in his pocket as will pay the proctor's fee—if he has as much as will buy him bread and cheese on the road. This does not, however, happen to be Mr. Gosling's case.

We know of a suit still pending before one of these blessed tribunals, and as yet in its initiatory state, in which the rate payer is defending himself; and has actually had to travel somewhere from 800 to 1000 miles, upon the many adjournments of the court.

It is, we have understood, a fact that poor Thorogood, whose soul's health was taken in charge by this generous court, actually came to London to appear, and had his walk for his pains; for the doors were shut and no one was there to prescribe for his disease.

The superior courts of the kingdom used to issue a lot of nonsense in the shape of a writ, but had the good sense to put an English notice at the bottom stating its object; and they are now all compelled by statute to modernise their forms, so that the people may know for what they are summoned. But in the ecclesiastical courts the souls of the people are guided in darkness. The clerical courts seem to act with reference to the soul, as many ignorant apothecaries administer to the body; they keep the patient in ignorance as to the nature of his disease, and the result is, as with such apothecaries, that an effectual depletion takes place from the sufferer's pocket. We apprehend the soul has as much chance of a deliverance in the one case as the body in the other.

Let in the light upon a nest of owls, and they will protest against the intrusion—the recommendations for the improvements of these courts have been met by the clergy in the same way. Some have thought the clergy "prefer darkness rather than light."

Look again at this citation. It does not tell the defendant how much he has subtracted, nor what "subtraction," in ecclesiastical phraseology, means. If he wished to pay the sum which it is intended to compel him to pay, it does not tell him what he has to pay, nor what costs he must render. An express rule of the common law courts compels attorneys to state this on the process. Of course, ~~just~~ ecclesiastical judges do not intend unnecessary infliction; but so far as information goes, the citation inflicts heavy costs, and fails to tell the defendant what he has to do in order to avoid further infliction. It seems to us, who are unenlightened in

these matters, that the citation is but a blind guide to the poor "subtracting sinner." It just gives light enough to make "darkness visible."

Mr. Phelps, of Yeovil, had a cart, value £4 10s., seized for 3s. 5d. church rates on the 30th of November last. It was kept three weeks in the constable's possession before an auctioneer could be found to sell it. At length Mr. Cox, sen., undertook the job, but could get no bidders, and the cart was knocked down to his son, who acted as his clerk, for £1 14s. It is worthy of remark that the rectory, within the precincts of which his property is situated, is endowed with glebe lands and great tithes of considerable value. The church has been down near a century, and upon the site thereof there now stands a cow house. In the yard adjoining such cow house, the present incumbent was "read in" to the living, but he never does any duty in respect of it.

Considerable interest has been created in Mansfield by a summons being taken out by the Rev. Dr. Cursham, the Vicar of Mansfield, against a highly respectable dissenter, Mr. Thomas Minnit, to recover Easter dues and small tithes. The case came on on Thursday week, before Colonel Salmond and C. S. Coke, Esq., magistrates of the county of Nottingham, when Mr. A. Cursham appeared for the Rev. Doctor, and Mr. Palfreyman for the defendant. The court house was crowded with respectable persons interested in the case; there being no less than eight clergymen of the church of England, and several Quakers and dissenting ministers present. Mr. Cursham stated, that the application was to recover a sum of 2s. from the defendant, as Easter offerings or dues; that, by custom, a sum of 2d. per head for each person above 16 years of age was payable to the vicar; and also a sum of 3d. for every house; and a payment of 5d. in the pound on the yearly wages paid to servants; and that those sums, in the defendant's case, amounted to the sum demanded; and, as he had refused to pay, the information had been laid under the provisions of the stat. of 7 and 8 William III. c. 6. Mr. Cursham then proposed to put in a copy of terrier, stating the sums payable, to which Mr. Palfreyman objected, as not being legal evidence, as no terrier could be given in evidence, except what came from the register of the diocese, and cited cases from Gwyllim on tithes, shewing this. The magistrates having held that such copies were inadmissible, the complainant's attorney then proposed to put in books kept by the old collector, who was dead, and who was the former clerk, and father to the present vicar. To these Mr. Palfreyman objected, as not being legal evidence, coming, as they did, from the complainant's possession, and not from the proper place of deposit, nor supported by any evidence of their authenticity. The magistrates having decided against their reception, the complainant, who appeared in person, as well as by his attorney, proposed to give evidence of the custom, as to Easter offerings being paid, when Mr. Palfreyman objected that the two items of 3d. for the house, and 5d. in the pound on servant's wages, could not come under the denomination of offerings, but were clearly small tithes, if payable at all, and that the former item was illegal, and cited a case from Rayner on tithes; and the latter, if payable, was payable by the poor servant, whose religious feelings the vicar would not be likely to increase by demanding it from her. The magistrates called upon the complainant to state what he called these payments, when he said he should prove they were by custom Easter offerings. He then called the present collector, who had collected for ten years, an old man named Poe, aged 90 years, and Dr. Hurt, who spoke to the payment of sums at Easter, but all of whom, on cross-examination, admitted that the payments were on no fixed principle, but arbitrary, and generally voluntary. Mr. Palfreyman contended, that by such evidence no custom could be proved, and asked for the case to be dismissed, when the magistrates said, the case clearly was not proved, and dismissed it; expressing, at the same time, an opinion that if they could have given costs they would have done so.

Upon the untoward payment of Mr. Burder's rate and costs, the churchwardens applied to Mr. John Gosling as the next largest rate payer amongst the dissenters; this gentleman refused payment, and was forthwith served with the customary citation from the Consistory Court of the Bishop of London; the question of the validity of church rates made by a minority in vestry is now, therefore, again fairly put in issue at Braintree, and will be subject, in the first instance, to adjudication by Dr. Lushington.

On Thursday, the 16th instant, the bellman of Almondbury gave notice that the tithe agent to the vicar of that place would attend the church school from twelve to two o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, the 18th instant, to receive the small tithes and Easter offerings then unpaid; that those who neglected to attend and pay the aforesaid small tithes and Easter offerings would be summoned the following Tuesday. Many of the poor of the before-named village, through fear of additional expense being incurred, had recourse to various shifts to pay the cruel impost. Besides some of them leaving themselves and families foodless, one poor family who had reserved a shilling for the purpose of purchasing a few coals, paid that, the only shilling they had in this world. Had not the coalman been a better and more charitable Christian than the holy vicar, the poor family might have starved until they had got more work out, if they could have lived so long. Every harsh step taken by the aristocratic law-established church adds another proof of the decline of its unjust power and influence.—*Stamford Mercury.*

On Thursday last the auditors met at Dover, agreeable to the order of vestry of the 9th inst., to audit the churchwardens' accounts and to make a church rate. Nine or ten out of thirteen were present. The first item objected to was 50/- paid to the minister since the last audit in June last, and due on the 21st of August. It was argued in favour of allowing this sum, that it was paid before judgment in Mr. Palfrey's case was given, and that it was in conformity with immemorial custom. It was urged against it, that custom could not supersede law—that they could not allow an item in the accounts which had been pronounced illegal—that although paid while the case was doubtful, the auditors would not be doing their duty in passing it after the judge had pronounced against it. On a division the sum was allowed. Other sums were objected to, but eventually all were allowed. The meeting then proceeded to consider a new rate. Mr. J. Ismay, jun., the chair-



man (a liberal churchman), asked the warden if he was prepared with an estimate (this was a new thing in the parish)—one was handed in, including salaries of clerk (minister omitted!) organist, sextons, &c., and a guess at repairs, and it was thought that a rate of two pence would be sufficient. A protest was handed in by two parishioners against any rate including clerk, organist, &c., and stating that if a rate was made in an illegal manner it would not be paid, and it might involve the parish in another suit. It was urged that there was a tacit understanding at the last vestry, that in the event of judgment being adverse to the churchwardens no rate was to be made by the auditors—and that they were only to report the state of accounts to a future vestry. To this it was replied that, though understood in general, yet as there was no resolution on the subject it was not binding; and, as they were appointed to make a rate as well as audit accounts, they had better adhere to the ancient custom, and admit no innovation. After much discussion, it was resolved by a majority of one—that a correct estimate be prepared, and a report presented to a future vestry.

On Wednesday morning, a vestry meeting was held in the church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, for the purpose of making a church rate. The meeting was but thinly attended, in consequence of the election for common councilmen, and it may be fairly inferred the day was selected to avoid a meeting with the leaders of reform in this parish. The senior churchwarden took the chair. The vestry-clerk then read the accounts of receipts and disbursements of the last church rate, and said the churchwardens now required a rate of 4*d.* in the pound. After some discussion the rate was agreed to.

An opinion is entertained in certain quarters, that a church rate can be imposed upon a parish in defiance of the declared opinion of a public meeting. Let this be affirmed as law—let it be resolved that the vicar and one churchwarden, for instance, may lay and levy a rate to any amount, though ten thousand to one oppose it, and vestry meetings for considering the propriety of laying a rate, will be farces indeed. Mr. Richardson pledged his legal character at the Leeds meeting, that such was not yet the law, notwithstanding all that had been said of the Braintree case. "Heaven forbid," said the *Morning Chronicle* lately, "that we should say what the ecclesiastical courts may not declare law;" but if either ecclesiastical or civil courts should declare that the minority can tax the majority, while the majority is called upon to say whether or not it shall be taxed, then the free people of this country may compliment the subjects of Mehemet Ali and the serfs of Russia; for, while living under despotisms, the people of these countries are not mockingly told that they are free.—*Bradford Observer.*

The Rev. Woolley Spencer, rector of St. Michael's, Stamford, has commenced legal proceedings against Mr. Henry Tebbutt, one of the churchwardens, for opening the ground of the church to admit a recent interment, without paying the rector a fee of ten guineas which he demanded. The parishioners have the uninterrupted custom of 150 years to sustain their claim to and appropriation of the fee; and Archdeacon Goddard, on a recent visit to Stamford, told Mr. Tebbutt that the parish need not fear the rector's claim in opposition to such a custom; but Mr. Spencer, sustained as he alleges by some legal opinions recently taken, has called upon the churchwarden to name a professional man who shall receive for him the first process in an action for trespass.

On Saturday week two young men, residents of Almondbury, were summoned before J. Sutcliffe, Esq., one of the West Riding magistrates, at the Guildhall, Huddersfield, because they "did, on the 5th day of December, instant, being the Lord's day, commonly called the Sunday, refuse or neglect to resort to their parish church or chapel, or to some congregation of religious worship, allowed by the toleration act." However, as the officers of the aforesaid village who had caused the young men to be summoned did not appear against them, the case was dismissed free of expense to the offenders.—*Stamford Mercury.*

The Archbishop of Canterbury said, in the House of Lords, about four years since, in reference to the voluntary system, "That, if you take away the property from the church of England, no man of rank would enter it."

The Rev. Mr. Palmer, one of the Oxford divines, and a supporter of Mr. Williams, the Puseyite candidate at the approaching election, has just published a pamphlet from which the following are extracts:

"Certainly, I am for no middle ways, as you will understand, when I tell you plainly, that for myself I utterly reject and anathematize (that is, curse) the principle of protestantism as a heresy, with all its forms, sects, or denominations. And if the church of England should ever unhappily profess herself to be a form of protestantism (which may God of his infinite mercy forbid), then I would reject and anathematize (that is, curse) the church of England, and would separate myself from her immediately, as from a human sect, without giving protestants any unnecessary trouble to procure my expulsion."

The second passage is as follows:

"In conclusion, I once more publicly profess myself a catholic, and a member of a catholic church, and say anathema (that is, curse) to the principle of protestantism, which I regard as identical with the principle of dissent, and to all its forms, sects, or denominations, especially to those of the Lutherans and Calvinists, and British and American dissenters. Likewise to all persons who, knowingly and willingly, and understanding what they do, shall assert, either for themselves or for the church of England, the principle of protestantism, or maintain the church of England to have one and the same common religion with any or all the various forms and sects of protestantism, or shall communicate themselves in the temples of the protestant sects, or give the communion to their members, or go about to establish any intercommunion between our church and them, otherwise than by bringing them, in the first instance, to renounce their errors, and promise a true obedience to the entire faith and discipline of the catholic and apostolical episcopate—to all such I say anathema—that is, curse."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR—Every candid and ingenuous mind must acknowledge the ability and fairness with which you have stated your arguments on the right to, and necessity of, the extension of the suffrage. But as I have reason to believe you are more anxious "to follow truth, where'er it leads," rather than claim a victory for absolute principles, you will not wonder that some of your readers should express their alarm at the probable consequences of such a portentous cause.

And, first, if every man of full age, and untainted by crime, acquired the right to vote at elections, it is more than likely that, instead of the aristocracy being in the ascendant, democracy would raise its aspiring crest, and

after laying prostrate for ages, would not content itself unless it at least were put on a level with the higher classes in society.

2ndly. Closely connected with the above would arise the inquiry as to why the selection of our representatives should be confined to those persons who lay claim to the possession of some five hundred pounds per annum to represent a county, or two hundred pounds for a borough? But little doubt exists, if men in general were allowed to record their opinions, the majority of them would conclude that it was enough that the elected representative was the man of their choice, and that a money qualification made him neither wiser nor better, while they might imagine it might tend to make him reckless and tyrannical.

3rdly. If such men were elected it might lead to the payment of members, instead of members spending a fortune to acquire a seat; from which circumstance they might more resemble our ambassadors to foreign courts, who, being paid by the government, the government have the power to recall, and to discharge their servants whenever they refuse or neglect to perform their duty.

4thly. As a protection to the voters, the next thing probably would be "the ballot," so that our landlords would not even have the sorry satisfaction of knowing who of their tenantry had voted against the will of their "lords of the soil;" but yet, from the results of the several elections, must be convinced that some of the sheep must wofully have strayed from the conservative fold, and fearfully run into the snares of democracy.

And, 5thly. It is more than probable that when the above serious and alarming alterations had taken place, the new parliament would, contrary to all precedent, legislate for the majority instead of the minority. That it would take immediate measures to employ the masses instead of pension off the idlers. That it would permit the labourer and artisan to purchase the necessities of life at the cheapest markets. That instead of exporting men to seek labour, or a grave, in distant lands, it would contrive, in its wisdom, either to give full employment to our increasing population here, or by keeping peace with all the world—as the result of free trade, reciprocity, and mutual good will—give such an impetus to foreign as well as to home trade, that our enterprising countrymen would, without the assistance of an emigration scheme, spontaneously embark their capital and their labour to those colonies where the best prospects were presented of gaining a comfortable livelihood by honest industry. In fine, that it would make labour, commerce, and religion free—"free as the air we breathe."

6thly. And last not least... It would very likely enter into the heads of the new parliament to require the aristocracy to do what they have for many years alleged they have done, namely, pay the greatest proportion of the taxes, and upon the principle that "to whom much is given, much is required." I mean by the introduction of a property tax, say upon land, houses, and the funded debt. And to meet the views of those who are anxious to retain "the sliding scale" at all risks, it would probably be so regulated that the burdens would be somewhat taken off the shoulders of those who are weak and unable to bear them, and more equally adjusted to the more powerful and athletic members of the community, who were adjudged more able to support them.

"O tempora! O mores!" Who can contemplate even the possibility of these things passing before our astonished vision without a thrill of horror, and wishing that long e're these heart-rending and astounding events are permitted to take place we may be gone to our resting-place, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary be at rest."

Such, Sir, would be the language of dismay and despair; but you, I presume, having viewed in the distance the dawn of a happier day, as a consequence of the enjoyment of natural and inalienable rights, could I see you through the vista which the doubts and the fears of the timid and the ignorant have created, I should behold you earnestly, yet calmly, waiting the progress of events, smiling at the storm, and whistling to the whirlwind; being confidently assured that to do justice is to find safety—so believes, dear Sir,

Yours, truly,

Snaresbrook, Dec. 13, 1841.

EBENEZER CLARKE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—This place, and the few villages in its vicinity, comprises a population of more than ten thousand, not more than twenty of whom have any voice in sending a borough member to parliament—this is a notable fact; and at a late meeting of the free trade association belonging to this district the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting, while it expresses its abhorrence of the corn law and every other law restricting trade and commerce, wishes the middle classes to give the right hand of good fellowship to the operatives or lower classes, in aiding the latter to obtain their just rights as men and members of society by means of advocating the cause of complete suffrage; being of opinion that a large majority of the nation would instantly join such a measure, who would be indifferent to support any other, which would only give temporary relief; that it would be the best and readiest means of abolishing the corn law and every other obnoxious law, of retrieving Britain from impending ruin and of establishing its government on the firm basis of equity and justice, which would give to trade and commerce, morality and religion, a degree of prosperity, unparalleled and unknown in the history of the world."

Thinking the above worthy the consideration of the readers of your very valuable paper.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Darwen, Dec. 17, 1841.

H. F.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—May I request the insertion of this letter in the *Nonconformist*. The distress at this period prevailing in our borough is now notorious from its publication in the newspapers; and three or four of my friends, unsolicited, have remitted me sums of money to distribute. I have dispensed their bounty in some few instances in cash, but generally in bread, and meal, and potatoes. One of these liberal friends, in his epistle, thus addresses me. "For some time past I have been wishing that the richer congregations would make an effort to assist the poor members of Christ's flock in those parts of the country where distress prevails; that not appearing likely, I shall relieve my conscience; I therefore inclose you five guineas." The idea of my friend was the system adopted in apostolic times, and surely deserves imitation, and commends itself to wealthy churches. How much do I wish that those who have made me their almoner could have heard the expressions of gratitude, and have seen the tears of joy, of which I was the witness, it would have been to them an abundant compensation for their liberality. For the last five weeks, myself and others have been in this town familiar with suffering scenes, and our minds have sometimes been almost overwhelmed, whilst our means have been so extremely feeble. I rejoice to say a general subscription is now started, sanctioned by all parties, and I doubt not a handsome sum will be subscribed, although this sum will soon be absorbed. I must, however, remark, there are very many of the most deserving and meritorious cases to which it cannot be available, which necessarily come under a pastor's eye, and touch to the very quick a pastor's heart. Cases of silent, secret penury, where the parties never complain, nor ask charity, nor seek parochial relief. Little tradesmen and others, who have for many years sustained a reputable standing in society, are now sinking into pauperism; this is the case with hundreds here. Yes, and let the church know the fact, there is many a devout and conscientious servant of God who has not this day had one meal

of food. I tell it with unfeigned sorrow. I have members of my own church who have come to the sanctuary on the Sabbath, whose aspect is neat, who have not broken their fast; others who have tramped hundreds of miles in a fruitless search for employ; others, members of thirty years standing, some of my most valuable and effective working professors, whose public intercessions in the sanctuary would kindle a glow of interest, who are pining in extreme poverty, and to whom assistance delicately rendered would be a valuable boon. How often recently has the text presented itself to my mind, "Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion, how dwelleth the love of God in him." Sir, I will not enlarge, but only conclude by saying, one or two five pound notes would enable me to diffuse an incalculable amount of comfort, to hearts I know are now filled with anxiety and sorrow, as to the present and the future. When persons have no money and no employ, and their prospects seem still lowering and darkening, it is difficult to walk by faith, and live by the day. Let not persons read homilies on patience and resignation to such, who regularly have their three meals per diem, without restriction as it regards quantity, and who know neither the misery of an empty pocket, or an empty stomach.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JNO. THORNTON.

P.S. If any christian friend thought it worth while to correspond with me, I can furnish individual cases of destitution, and I should thankfully state to any one the way in which their liberality is dispensed.

GENERAL POLITICS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The following are the sentences of the Court of Peers on the prisoners which it has been trying:—Quenisset, the principal, Colombier, the owner of the wine shop, and Just Brazier, are condemned to death. It was asserted by some that the two latter would be executed, and Quenisset spared. Dufour is sentenced to deportation for life, with Auguste Petit and Jarrasse; Boggio and Mallet are sentenced to fifteen years' detention; Launoy and Boucheron to ten years; Dupoty is condemned to five years' detention with Bazin; Bouzet, Consideré, Martin, Fougeray, and Prioul, are acquitted. The sentence against Dupoty, which had been expected, formed the general subject of conversation in Paris, and the papers of Friday and Saturday are taken up—to nearly the exclusion of all other matter—by discussions on his conviction and punishment.

SPAIN.

The result of the municipal elections has been generally favourable to the government party. The republicans and moderados have been defeated everywhere, save in a few petty towns.

It was rumoured at the last Council of Ministers a dissolution of the Cortes was resolved upon in case the majority should be hostile to the present government. The Regent has entire confidence in his cabinet; and it is said, will not sacrifice it to the caprice of any such faction. Private letters attach no credit to such a report, and add that the ministerial party is certain of carrying all the measures which it has prepared during the recess for the permanent relief of the country.

It was confidently expected that Senor Arguelles would be re-elected President of the Chamber of Deputies. According to advices from Alicante of the 13th, we learn that serious disturbances had occurred in that town, in consequence of the municipal elections. The republicans being defeated, commenced a violent attack on the polling booth, and though the president was stabbed with a poignard, he was enabled to take refuge in a church. "In consequence of the measures adopted by the political chief, the *emeute* was soon put down."

The latest accounts from Madrid state that the ministers held frequent meetings for the purpose of preparing the speech to be delivered by the Regent at the opening of the session. The question of the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies continued to be discussed with much warmth by the journals. The ministerial deputies intended to give their support to M. Arguelles, the guardian of the Queen. The opposition was divided on that question, one party proposing for its candidate M. Vadillo, former minister and deputy of Cadiz, and the other, M. Acuna, the Vice-President of the Assembly during the session of 1841. The latter will obtain the votes of the deputies who have turned against M. Arguelles since his acceptance of the guardianship.

AMERICA.

A correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* sends the following extract of a letter relative to the pacific doings of Lord Morpeth in America:—"Your Lord Morpeth, now here, is on the tract of doing much good, and conciliating more good feeling between the people of the two nations than all that diplomacy could do in years. The French Prince (just left) has rather, from the force of circumstances, been entertained by the aristocracy, whilst the democracy have taken a kind turn towards his lordship, whose admirable bearing and readiness gives him an excellent opportunity to put a right feeling in a right place. His visit is most opportune, and 5,000 'sympathisers' can't, in a season, fan up as much bad feeling, as he, in one public meeting or entertainment to him, can turn to the best of feeling, and all in good, honest, plain English too."

We have reason to believe that a very serious misunderstanding now exists between the British government and the United States, arising, on the one hand, from the unwillingness of the American President to apologise for the detention of a British subject (M'Leod) on an unfounded charge, and, on the other, from the alleged fact that vessels engaged in the slave trade are notoriously fitted out in American ports. Lord Aberdeen, as we learn, has written repeated and decided notes on both these subjects, without as yet receiving satisfactory answers; and, considering the fresh obligations imposed on this country by the new anti-slave treaty, it is much to be feared that something unpleasant may occur between both governments. Our information on this subject is derived from a most authentic source.—*Morning Herald*.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

The annual municipal elections took place on St. Thomas's day. The question of the corn laws was made the test in most cases. In Farringdon Within, there were fourteen vacancies and eighteen candidates: ten declared for a greater or less alteration of the corn laws.

All but one of those were elected on the show of hands; but the poll returned only eight of them, including Mr. P. A. Taylor. In Farringdon Without, there were sixteen vacancies and twenty-one candidates: fifteen declared against the present corn laws; and they were all elected on the show of hands, with Mr. Anderton the great opponent of corporation abuses, for the sixteenth; nine supporters of change, including Mr. Richard Taylor, were returned at the poll; and so was Mr. Anderton. In Bishopsgate there were fourteen vacancies and seventeen candidates: two only opposed alteration of the corn laws, and the opinions of one candidate are not stated; two tory supporters of the corn laws, and one tory opponent were rejected on the show of hands: the tory and one liberal opponent of the corn laws were thrown out at the poll, with a tory supporter. All the others were elected. In Langbourn, Mr. John Nicholson was brought forward as the anti-corn-law candidate for one of the eight vacancies; but the show of hands was against him, and so was the poll.

It is now understood that the aldermen and common council intend to make a division of the duties of the sheriff's court between Mr. Ryland and Mr. Bullock; and, in this case, two vacancies will occur among the City pleaders. Personal canvassing is not permitted, but several gentlemen are said to be feeling their way. Mr. Laurie, son of Sir Peter, is very active, as is also Mr. Locke, son of the common councilman. Sir Walter Riddell, Bart., and Mr. Forsyth, of the Northern Circuit, are also mentioned as candidates. Mr. Lyall, son of the M.P., was applied to, but has declined being put in nomination. *Morning Chronicle*.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, at Stoke Newington, Mr. Scoble, the secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society, in the course of his lecture, showed that the Duke of Buckingham, the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, and other corn law upholders, were slave-owners prior to the abolition of the nefarious traffic of slavery.

There are upwards of 6,000 persons now receiving parochial relief in St. Marylebone.

It is understood in the City that the subordinate officers of the Board of Trade are making inquiries into every department of business, with the view, it is supposed, of submitting facts for the consideration of the Peel Cabinet. In Mark-lane they have been very busy; they have now turned their attention to the produce markets and to the Customs' departments.

An account of the average aggregate amount of Promissory Notes payable to bearer on demand which have been in circulation in the United Kingdom, distinguishing those circulated by the bank of England, by private banks, and by joint-stock banks, in England and Wales, by the banks in Scotland, by the Bank of Ireland, and by all other banks in Ireland; and of the average amount of bullion in the Bank of England, during the four weeks preceding the 11th day of December, 1841, pursuant to the act 4 and 5 Victoria, cap. 50.

ENGLAND—		
Bank of England	£16,292,000	
Private banks	5,718,211	
Joint-stock banks	3,217,812	
SCOTLAND—		
Chartered private and joint-stock banks	3,448,660	
IRELAND—		
Bank of Ireland	3,303,275	
Private and joint-stock banks	2,581,713	
Total	34,561,671	
Bullion in the Bank of England	£5,031,000	

PROVINCIAL.

PUBLIC MEETING AT BATH.

UNION OF THE CORN LAW REPEALERS AND THE CHARTISTS.

One of the most important public meetings that was ever held in Bath was convened on Monday, at the Guildhall. It was attended by a very numerous body of people, and supported by some of the most influential gentlemen of the place who are opposed to the principles of monopoly. The chair was taken at one o'clock by William Hunt, Esq., the late mayor, who argued at some length on the baneful influence exerted by the corn laws, and quoted various statistics in proof thereof, concluding as follows:—Even if the corn laws had any pretensions to sound policy, they could not be maintained at the expense of happiness, morals, and life itself. The beneficence of Christianity can never harmonise with a system that strikes down the arm of industry, that limits the means and attacks the very right of subsistence [hear, hear]. The example of our Lord, who fed multitudes in the wilderness, might teach us how much the provision of bodily necessities is within the scope and design of the gospel; and he can never pretend to an imitation of that character, who, in the face of famishing multitudes, would obstruct a supply of bread. This is the natural operation of corn laws; for, by cramping our commerce, they diminish that demand which creates employment, and thus cut off the industrious man from the chance of that daily labour upon which he depends for his daily subsistence. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," is a command too plain to be evaded or misunderstood: yet, what love can that be which, for the sake of a questionable and remote advantage, would suffer multitudes of our neighbours and countrymen to languish in pauperism or perish for want [cheers]? Neither the laws of God nor man can tolerate such a course; and therefore it is, that if the corn laws have been brought in error, or for any exclusive interest, in justice to sound principles of commerce, in duty to the interests and safety of the nation, and in obedience to Him who is eminently the "Judge of the poor of the people, and who shall save the children of the needy, and break in pieces the oppressor," let us denounce the pernicious tendency of such laws, and earnestly petition that they be erased from our statute-book for ever [loud and protracted applause.]

The Rev. THOMAS SPENCER, of Charterhouse, Hinton, in moving the first resolution, read extracts from a letter he had received from an emigrant, who had settled about five years in America, to show the disparity between the two countries, as to the cheapness of agricultural produce, and the amount of labourers' wages, and the great advantages that would result (in the scarcity of the circulating medium in America) from an interchange between the British manufacturers

and the cultivators of the soil of the States. It had been objected also that the national debt and taxes rendered it necessary that the agricultural interest should be protected. These were great grievances; but who had to endure them? The land was no more taxed now than it was 150 years ago, and if the tax on the land had increased in the same ratio as on other things, it would amount to forty millions a year. The land-tax alone, if fairly laid on, would be sufficient for all the burdens of the state. The pressure of the taxes had made the people find out how little the land was burdened with them. The corn laws prevented the national debt from being paid, and impoverished the whole community. The rev. speaker went on to argue against the other objections, the futility of which he fully exposed; such as the cry about cheap corn and low wages, draining the agricultural population for the manufacturing districts, &c. He also dwelt on the great prevalent distress in the country, and other topics, calculated to show the pernicious operation of the corn laws on commerce and labour. He next spoke of the means to be taken for their repeal, and having adverted to those of publicly agitating, and the right of petition, said, that, if any impediment should arise to prevent the repeal of the corn laws, the people would know what other measures should be taken [loud cheers]. He would only say, with respect to those other measures, that the meeting was called on to petition parliament for a repeal of the corn laws, and to state what they believed to be the cause of the evil. If they were met to construct a building upon an island, they might certainly consider the propriety of constructing a bridge to approach the island. And he should consider whatever might be urged in a friendly spirit, and give to it his cordial support [cheers]. But he would ask, were they too sanguine in expecting a repeal of the corn laws? At the Manchester meeting the other day, an American gentleman, Mr. Curtis, of Ohio, had said, repeal your corn laws, and we will sweep out all the manufactures of Manchester. In our plains we can grow corn equal to the supply of the world; take our corn and we will take all the goods you have now made, and will make for years to come [loud cheers]. This would show that the public did not think enough of the subject, and that the admired sliding-scale was doing more serious injury than people were aware of [hear, hear, and cheers]. Persons were not eager to speculate in corn. Even when the duty was as low as 8s. per qr., by the time a vessel had arrived it might have reached 28s., and could not then be brought in. It was also a dangerous trade; and he had recently heard of three men who had engaged in it who had to pay £5000 each for their bargain. He was glad to be present at a meeting called for the express purpose of considering the corn laws. On Wednesday last, he was present at a meeting at which a clergyman went out of his way to deliver a speech in favour of the corn laws. He (the speaker) was obliged to reprove him at the time; but he wished he were there that day. The clergy ought to be the last, next to the landholders, to mention the subject. When a man gave evidence in his own case, he was generally listened to with suspicion; and if the clergy, whose tithes depended on the land, came forward to support the present corn laws, they would be distrusted [hear, hear]. What chance would a railway bill have if referred to a committee of turnpike keepers and coach proprietors [laughter]? A gentleman, the other day, was telling him what an awful thing railways were; but on inquiring who had been his informant, he (the rev. speaker) was told he was a coach proprietor [laughter]. So it was with the corn laws. Who were interested in their maintenance? 30,000. Who were desirous of their repeal? 26 millions. As one who wished the greatest happiness to the greatest number, he certainly preferred the majority of 26 millions to the minority of 30,000 [loud cheers]. He would advise his hearers to be united in what they sought. So long as the monopolists saw the middle and working classes pulling against each other, so long would they be secure. It was a law in mechanics, that two powers, equal and opposing, destroyed each other; but when both were urged in the same direction, then the entire force was the sum of the two. While disunited the monopolists would laugh at their opposition; but firmly combined, no power on earth could resist them. The rev. speaker concluded by moving:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the corn laws, by increasing the price of food and diminishing the demand for labour, are injurious to all classes, and cramp the energies of trade and commerce, ruin industry, and ought to be repealed."

Admiral GORDON seconded the resolution, and entered into some statistical details.

The resolution was then put, and carried by an overwhelming majority, there being only four dissentients.

Mr. HENRY VINCENT moved the second resolution; and, on presenting himself, was received with deafening applause. He said, he rose with great pleasure to move the resolution with which he was entrusted. While denouncing the iniquity of the corn laws, however, he could not forget that the evil had sprung from a monopoly of legislation; and the selfishness of that monopoly would not be overcome till all classes were fully, fairly, and entirely represented. However important the arguments (and they were important) which had been brought forward by the gentlemen who had already addressed the meeting—however mighty the evils (and they were mighty) which were the result of the corn laws—however fearful the distress which was spread through the land, threatening the lower classes with ruin, and the higher with destruction—however much he might hate these laws—how much greater must that hatred arise against that system of legislation which had been their cause [loud cheers]? Before he proceeded with the observations he should offer on the resolution, he would congratulate the meeting and the liberal gentlemen upon the platform, upon the happy argury which that assembly held out of its being the precursor to a better state of feeling between the middle and the working classes, the foundation of England's national glory [hear, hear]. He entered upon the present discussion with feelings of the sincerest nature, and he would yield to none in a desire to see his country free, and her people happy. There was a fearful and startling truth running through the resolution which had just been passed, that government hitherto had existed for itself and not for the interests of the governed, the legislature taking care that laws should be made for their own interests, and not for those for whose benefit all laws ought to exist. What was the nature of government? Why did men become members of the social body, except to purchase more security and happiness than could be attained in a state of perfect nature? And having become thus subject, if those expectations were not fulfilled,

to what a fearful evil had they submitted their natural rights by chaining them to laws in which the Christian principle of peace, and love, and benevolence, did not operate! If, then, they submitted to civil law, let them pause and see that those entrusted with its administration did not abuse their power, but kept in view the freedom—the social and political freedom—of all [hear]. Mr. Spencer had showed that the landlords had not only made the corn laws, but that they were so extremely considerate as to make all the taxes fall upon the middle and working classes, and not upon themselves. Now he (Mr. Vincent) maintained that government had no right to interfere with the commerce of the country. Every man had a right to sell his own labour when, where, and how he pleased [hear, hear]. Every combination of men had a right to do the same; Great Britain had a right to do the same: but it was going a step too far for the legislature to say what markets they should have, and what they should not. Let them see what such a system of legislation had done. It had not only passed a corn law, but it had denied that the world should be open to the produce of their labour. Was it because a mountain reared its head, or a rivulet intervened between two countries, they should look upon the inhabitants as beings of an inferior grade, or that they should be forbidden to extend their commerce to the world, and thereby impart to it that principle of equality which God had himself established and recognised? The aristocratic principle was the principle of monopoly; and nothing was more opposed to rational liberty, to the power of Christianity, and to the enlightenment of the world's mind, than that monopoly which sought to prevent the extension of commerce. How had the world been degraded by legislation intended for the interest of the governors apart from the governed! From the page of history and of scripture they learned that all governments had over-taxed their people; and when they had awoke from their oppression, and endeavoured to enter into fraternising combinations with other countries, their governors had set them at war, in order that they might butcher each other [cheers]. There never would be security for the peace of Europe or the world till the interests of the governed were made equal to those of the governors. And it was on this broad principle that he came forward that day with the greatest possible pleasure to give his protest against all class legislation, not merely against the corn laws, but against every species of ill which distressed, and divided, and desolated the nation [applause]. He most cordially supported the preceding resolution; but the one he had to propose followed it up; and, while denouncing the corn laws, it was too honest to allow those who passed the corn laws to escape without censure. They would tell Sir Robert Peel that they required something more than speeches in parliament—that they wanted honest and practical statesmen—that they wanted decisive measures to promote the glory and happiness of the people; and they would present their respectful compliments to Sir Robert Peel, and tell him, that if their requests were not complied with they would lay the axe of democratic freedom at the root of the corrupt tree [cheers]. His resolution spoke of the full, fair, and entire representation of the people in the House of Commons. But let them look at those who now sat in that House—at Col. Sibthorpe in the Commons, and the Duke of Buckingham in the Lords [hear, hear]—and then ask themselves if they expected the prayer of their petition would be granted? If they did they had forgotten what Dean Swift had said long ago, "Blessed are they that expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed" [loud laughter]. It would not be forgotten that he held peculiar or ultra views, and he hoped the meeting would bear with him. He felt pain in being obliged to refer to Lord John Russell, who had himself introduced the proposed modification of the corn laws. When Mr. Wakley, in 1835, moved for an extension of the suffrage, Lord John declared in his (Mr. V.'s) hearing, that when he introduced the reform bill he designed to give a preponderance to the landed aristocracy. And it had done so; or how was it that after eight years experience they had to meet to denounce that legislation which had done nothing for the relief of the distresses of the commercial and manufacturing population? When the new parliament met again, they knew that it would be well stored with friends of the corn laws. Some had pointed to this fact as the result of a coalition of the tories and chartists; but he indignantly denied the imputation, and would point to Bath, with her honest John Arthur Roebuck [loud cheers], as a refutation of the calumny. From the union at the last election they had learned an important lesson; and from it Sir Robert Peel might see that, though poor and unlearned, the working classes could and would raise an agitation which should shake him in his place, and which should prove to the middle classes that they were their friends, and were willing to fraternise and co-operate with them for the benefit of all [cheers]. When parliament met there would be plenty of petitions for its consideration. There would doubtless be a large one from the Anti-corn-law League, and he knew there would be another large one from the party to which he belonged. But what would be their reception? Why Sir Robert Peel, who was well known as a practised and a wily dog, would rise up, and say in the kindest manner, "Mr. Speaker, all who know me will believe that no one more sincerely sympathises with the distresses of the people than myself;" and then he would wind up by declaring, "but, Sir, evils such as these cannot be relieved by legislation, parliament cannot reach them; the people must trust in Providence and exercise forbearance; the wealthy I have no doubt will do something for them; and I do hope that at no distant day their distresses may be removed" [loud laughter]. This would be the result of the petitioning; and when the discussion came on the corn laws, they might be astonished to find that the Duke of Buckingham had given up part of his power, and consented to the proposal of a modification of those laws. But he (the speaker) would say that they would be satisfied with nothing but a total repeal [hear, hear]; and he asked the meeting to make this express declaration. He called on them to oppose anything short of total repeal, and to declare nothing else should ever satisfy them ["We do, we do"]. But this led him to say that he did not expect the present parliament would repeal the corn laws. The tory party in the lower and upper house were not wise enough—they were not benevolent enough; they were acting on the old-fashioned principle of looking after themselves first, and then after the people. His hearers might rest assured that they were not to be approached by statistical tables or details of facts. All this they knew as well as those who told them; but they thought it better the people should pay than

themselves [hear, hear]. They had got up for the people some splendid wars with France, one with America, which brought a Washington from his home into the field [hear]; but when they were asked who was to pay the piper, they turned round to the people, and said, "Honour is a good thing—this we have gained for you; titles and situations are good things—these we have gained for ourselves; and taxes are good things—when other people pay them" [laughter and cheers]. This accursed law would continue till the Anti-corn-law League would come over and declare for a full, fair, and entire representation of the people in the Commons' House of Parliament [cheers]. Let them look at the power that would repeal the corn laws. If an agitation could be got up, such as produced the passing of the reform bill; if, as then, a committee of gentlemen sat at Charing cross, with twenty non-commissioned officers enrolled among their number; if, as then, large meetings, such as the present, were presided over by lord lieutenants of counties; and a great fermentation were created throughout the country; then the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel would hold a consultation on the matter, and say, Lest they destroy us altogether, let us concede part of what they ask. But if the non-commissioned officers were to proceed by railway to different parts of the country, and, backed by the people, to offer an open resistance, then the corn laws would be repealed to-morrow. But these measures need not be resorted to. Was there one present who did not expect that the result of the passing of the reform bill would open the ports, and give an outlet to the goods of the manufacturers? Was there one who did not think that the interests of the government would then become identical with those of the governed? He, for one, was free to confess that such was not his opinion, neither was it that of the extreme radical party to which he belonged; but it was the opinion of the leaders of the whig party. But they were now met to petition as selfish a parliament as the boroughmongering one was; and they might depend on it that, unless they were united to fight the battle against the aristocracy, they would not obtain a repeal of the corn laws [hear]. But it was not wise to be having repeated agitations—one this day for one object, another to-morrow for another. It would be far better if the timid reformers would come among the working classes, and, having read their hearts, say to them, Honest and independent men, we have striven by every means within our reach to repeal the laws which afflict you and us; but finding that our efforts are rendered unavailing, by hereditary and monopolising interests, we step into the common ranks of the people, and ask for a development of their intellectual and political power, and we will compel the aristocracy to yield it [loud cheers].—Mr. Vincent proceeded at great length to argue for the identity of interests which existed between the middle and working classes, calling on the former to give up their prejudices, and on the latter to fit themselves for the exercise of political power. He stated his concurrence in the guarded manner in which the resolution had been framed, at the same time expressing his interpretation of a "full, fair, and impartial representation" of the people to be nothing short of universal suffrage. His speech was attentively listened to and loudly cheered. He concluded by moving:—

"That while this meeting unequivocally denounce the iniquity of the corn laws, as springing from monopoly and exclusive legislation, they are of opinion that this selfishness and monopoly in the government cannot be put down till all classes of the people shall be fairly, fully, and entirely represented in the House of Commons."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. PHILP, one of the chartists of Bath, and supported by Mr. W. P. ROBERTS, and carried unanimously.

J. EDRIFFE, Esq., the city sheriff, then moved that the two resolutions just passed be embodied in petitions to the two houses of parliament, and forwarded for representation, that to the House of Commons by the members for Bath.

The motion was agreed to, and after a vote of thanks to the mayor for the use of the Guildhall, and for his able conduct in the chair, the meeting separated.

The electors of Lincolnshire met their representative, R. A. Christopher, Esq., at a public dinner last week, when the hon. member in the course of his speech gave the following outline of a plan on the corn laws, which is generally supposed to be sanctioned by the government:—

"Now, with regard to the detail of these laws, the first thing that strikes me as requiring alteration is the very fictitious mode in which the present averages are made [hear, hear]. I believe it is admitted on all hands, that the mode of taking the averages, in conjunction also with the very low duty of 1s., at a very high price, gives very great encouragement to persons of speculative and dishonest habits to embark in the corn trade; and whilst the farmer and agriculturist derive but little benefit from these very high prices, they incur all the odium. There is no very simple or very effective mode of curing this evil. I believe that the most simple mode would be to exclude all these head quarters of large consuming districts, such as Wakefield, London, Liverpool, Hull, &c., from making any return to the head office in London, of the sales which take place in such places. I think, too, it is both necessary and proper that the averages should be made jointly by the buyer and seller in every market town throughout the United Kingdom [hear, hear]. I have received from a gentleman, who is in communication with the government, a very simple and effective method of taking the averages, and if the government should propose a like measure, it shall have my most cordial support [hear, hear]. The gentleman in question proposes that in every county town an average office should be established, and that each office should be furnished with a double set of blank books for each kind of grain, of which returns are required to be made, entitled respectively, 'Wheat,' 'Barley,' &c. Into these the returns made should be posted according as they are made by producers or dealers—each sort in its respective book. From the producers' return the average should be made out once a week, or as often as may be determined upon, and sent to the general average office in London. The advantages of this plan would be, that much time and labour in writing will be saved at the offices, and the original returns will be effectively preserved in the handwriting of the parties making them; and the returns of the dealers will serve as a check on those of the producers, so as to prevent the possibility of fraud in any case sufficient to influence the market. This is the plan which most meets with my approbation. Now, gentlemen, I will venture to make a few observations as to the present scale of duties. I should myself be satisfied to make a slight alteration in the sliding-scale, if I thought that we could settle this question and conciliate all the conflicting interests that prevail, and thus enable us to arrive at that happy consummation which every good subject must be desirous of seeing—the agriculture and commerce of the country going hand in hand to promote the national wealth [loud cheers]. Now, gentlemen, if by any scale of duties I could come to a conclusion satisfactory to my mind, it would be, if possible, to enact a law which should regulate the price of corn as nearly as possible between 5s. and 6s. I believe that, with the experience which we have obtained since the passing of the corn laws and the various improvements which have taken place in agriculture, the practical effect of these laws has been to afford to the consumer of this country wheat at a lower rate than it has been afforded for many years. Looking back to the real state of the averages, and taking one year with another, since the passing of the present law, the average price of wheat in this county has been about 5s. per qr., and in the country about 6s. per qr. [cheers]. But still it is impossible, in considering this matter, to drive from our minds the fact that there has been a considerable fluctuation in the price of wheat. Since these laws were passed the price of wheat has varied generally from 3s. to somewhere about 7s. Now, gentlemen, I know it is impossible for hu-

man ingenuity to devise any system that shall regulate the duty of corn as you can regulate the price of calico or any manufacturing produce. I must say, without pledging myself to any specific alteration, that I should be happy to see a more regular scale—should be glad if we possessed a sliding duty, in preference to the present jumping-duty. I think it would be a very good thing to regulate these duties so as to have a maximum, and minimum duty. Whatever that maximum duty might be, it should be levied when the price reaches 5s.; the minimum should be levied when the price reaches 6s. By the present scale we undergo a great deal of obloquy from the superfluous protection which we receive. For instance, when the price falls as low as 5s., the duty is 3s. 8d.; at 4s., is 4s. 8d.; and at 3s., is 5s. 8d.; being actually more than the price of the corn [hear, hear]. Now this fact renders us liable to a great deal of obloquy. Here is 150 per cent. levied on the food of the country without the agriculturist deriving any benefit. Now it appears to me that when prices fall so low in this country as 5s., 4s., or 3s., it arises not from an immense importation of foreign corn, which we then seek to check by an extravagant duty, but from the great production that takes place in this country: and in these periods we are competing with each other instead of with the foreigner [hear, and cheers]. This, gentlemen, is the reason why I contend for a maximum duty, whatever it may be, to be regulated and fixed from the very best official information we can receive as to what is the lowest price it can be brought into the port of Hull, or any other eastern port [hear, hear]."

A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the members of the Free Trade Association was held in the Reformer's Hall, Warrington, on Monday week. The chair was occupied by Holbrook Gaskell, Esq., the president of the association, and one of the magistrates of the county. John Rylands, Esq., said that the resolution which had been placed in his hand was a sorrowful one, and the present state of the country fully justified it. He had attended the late meeting of delegates in Manchester, and the accounts of distress and ruin from all parts of the country had surpassed anything he had previously conceived. He moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting deplores the deep distress in which this town and neighbourhood are involved, and regards with sorrow and alarm the wide-spreading misery and destitution of the industrious classes, and the increasing commercial difficulties of this country."

Mr. Hardy, surgeon, in seconding the resolution, entered into an important statistical account of the present deplorable state of many branches of our national industry. The Rev. F. Bishop moved the next resolution.

"That this meeting regards these evils, as resulting solely from the operation of the corn laws, which are unjust and unconstitutional in principle, and which, if maintained, threaten political convulsion, and the total ruin of the best interests of this empire."

Mr. Peter Rylands seconded the resolution which, with the former, was unanimously adopted. Petitions founded upon them were agreed to, and the meeting separated.

Mr. W. Biggs's amended, or Midland Counties Charter, will be published in our next week's paper. It is intended, we believe, afterwards to be submitted to a Midland Counties Convention of Dissenting Ministers and Whig Radical Reformers to be held at Derby or some central point early in the ensuing month, before the approaching session of the legislature. We heartily wish it may produce the result contemplated by its framer, i. e. lead to a union between those classes of reformers at present separated by real or fancied differences of opinion, than which nothing can be more desirable or more necessary.—*Leicestershire Mercury*.

The York and North Midland Railway Company have for some time found it necessary in the first and last daily trains between York and Hull to lower their fares from 6s. 6d. and 4s. to 4s. 6d. and 2s. 6d., for second and third class passengers, the first class remaining as before, 8s. 6d. It has been done with the intention of competing with the steam boats, and it appears has been successful, for those trains which used to carry little or nothing before, are now very fairly loaded. The distance is 52 miles.—*Derby Reporter*.

On the 1st of February, 1841, the fare on the Canterbury and Whistable railway was reduced from 9d. to 6d., alike to the benefit of the public and the proprietors, as will be seen from the following returns:—From the 10th of February to the 30th of November, 1840, when the fare was 9d., the number of passengers was 9,388, and the receipts 352l. 1s. 3d., and in the corresponding period for 1841, when the fare was 6d., the passengers amounted to 23,619, and the receipts to 592l. 19s. 6d., being an increase of 150 per cent. on the former, and on the latter 68 per cent.

In the fares of the Manchester and Sheffield railway, just opened from Manchester to Godley, a distance of nine miles, there is a curious feature of a penny fare, from Newton and Hyde to Godley, about a mile and a half. About 20l. was received at this charge the first day the railway was opened, a strong encouragement to the introduction of low fares.

The same dull state of trade continues at our cloth halls this week as last, and this was more particularly the case on Tuesday, which was one of the worst markets we ever witnessed. Remunerating prices cannot at present be obtained even with the very limited supply which has lately been brought to market. The manufacturers are in a state of despondency, and express themselves determined to still further narrow their operations, and although this will fall heavily upon the labouring part of the population in the manufacturing villages, who are even now scarcely half employed, it is the only safe policy they can pursue until a better state of things takes place. A few houses are engaged in sending off a few orders for the spring trade to the United States, but with this exception, there is scarcely any business doing in the warehouse.—*Leeds Mercury*.

Owing partly to the season and partly to other causes, there was almost a suspension of demand at Manchester last week, and little or no business was done, except in very small parcels, to supply immediate wants, or forced sales to meet still more pressing pecuniary necessities. In the latter cases, of course, low prices were submitted to. Some excitement has been caused by the announcement of the failure of the house of Taylor, Boggs, and Co., of London (Gardner, Boggs, and Co., Liverpool), who were lately engaged in the trade to the East Indies. We understand that the engagements of this firm amount to 150,000/. (reports varying from 160,000/. to 190,000/.), of which a considerable portion is owing to parties in this town. The failure is ascribed to the very unprofitable state of the trade with the east, and the great loss on produce imported, especially East India cotton—of which the house were holders to the extent of 20,000 bales.—*Manchester Paper*.

A half-starved man, with six children, has been committed for trial at Hertford, for stealing three potatoes. Two poor householders, strangers to the prisoner, became bail for him, or he would have undergone an imprisonment of two months before his trial would come on; and the parish would have had to keep his family.

IRELAND.

At a meeting of the corporation of Dublin last week, after the transaction of general business, Mr. Thomas brought forward his motion relative to an address to Lord de Grey. He thought the Dublin corporation were bound, as they had voted an address to the Queen, to vote one also to her representative in Ireland, congratulating him upon his appointment [cries of "oh, oh"]. He believed his excellency was determined to carry out his measures faithfully and impartially, and that he was entitled to the respect of all parties [laughter]. Mr. Thomas then read the address. Mr. Alderman Kinahan seconded the address. The lord mayor said, that the motion before the chair was, "that a congratulatory address be presented to the lord-lieutenant upon his appointment to the viceroyalty of Ireland." A congratulatory address to the lord-lieutenant, upon his appointment to the viceroyalty of Ireland! The notion of the reformed corporation of Dublin consenting to such a proposition could not be entertained by any man, and the subject was evidently brought forward for some purpose. Several members of the body briefly addressed the assembly, after which a division took place, when there appeared for the address, 11; against it 34; majority, 23.

Official orders have been received at the castle to transfer the chief control of the Irish poor-law administration to the English Board.

GREAT ANTI-CORN LAW MEETING IN DUBLIN.

One of the most numerous meetings that has taken place in Dublin for some years back, was held on Thursday evening in the great round room of the Mansion-house, called together by an announcement in the papers that a meeting would take place on that evening, "to consider the effect of the corn laws on Irish industry." Half-past seven o'clock was the hour appointed for taking the chair; but, long previously, a continuous stream of people, and of the most respectable as well as the humbler classes, were observed wending their way towards the mansion-house. It is necessary to observe, for the information of those at a distance, that the round room of the Mansion-house was specially erected to afford ample accommodation for the Orange corporation of Dublin to entertain at dinner his late Majesty George IV., and that it is considered one of the largest apartments in the United Kingdom. This great building was entirely filled before the proceedings commenced, and crowds of persons were unable to procure admission. At half-past seven precisely the chair was taken by the right honourable the lord mayor, amidst rapturous applause.

The LORD MAYOR said it was with the greatest alacrity that he obeyed the summons to take the chair. It was impossible for any subject to be, in its nature, of a deeper or greater interest than that which called them together that evening—it related to the food of the people. The effect of the present law was starvation [hear, hear]. They had met that evening to consider the effects of the bread tax; it was a tax which made bread dearer to every human being [hear, hear], and, of course, the pressure of that dearness was felt by the poor and labouring classes. As to the wealthier classes of the state, the quantity of bread they consumed, as compared with their general expenditure, was trivial, but to the working classes it was a question of life and death [hear, hear]. The pressure of this tax was grossly unequal, and the pressure on the wealthier classes was totally insignificant, and that was demonstrated by the single reflection, that the quantity of bread that wealthy persons consumed was very insignificant, in comparison with their expenditure—whereas the quantity of bread the poor man consumed was the entire bulk of his expenditure for food, and made nine-tenths of the value of his productive power and of his wages [hear]. The linen trade was carried on at one period with America, and the Americans were as anxious to get our linens now as ever, but they had no article to exchange for them. They were beginning to feel this in the north of Ireland; and he hoped the period was not far distant when they would have the people of the North combining in one universal cry for the extension of manufactures, by opening our ports for the produce of other countries [hear, hear]. He looked with horror at the state of the manufacturing interests in England: he found the quantity diminishing day by day, and the number of persons employed were, of course, diminishing; the mercantile men were failing; the banks were breaking; the great manufactories were shutting up; the artisans were turned out of employment; he found starvation spreading throughout England; and he found that this progressive scale of deterioration was only augmenting [hear, hear]. He recollects that all nations of the earth had revolutions. There was no state in history that had not progressed to great power and strength, and then gradually declined, and ultimately fell; and it struck him with a sensation that had, he hoped, something of superstition in it, that England's power had arrived at its climax, and that her decline was approaching [hear, hear]. What they should do was to repeal the corn laws, and that should not be done by the sliding scale, which added all the vices of gambling to the misery resulting from the system itself. He did not care whether a whig, tory, or radical government was in power; they should keep the people from starving, and thus save themselves and the country, the throne and the people, from the effects of starvation [hear]. Great efforts were making in England to coerce the ministry into taking this most useful step for the advantage of all, but they were in the hands of the oligarchy. The present parliament was a landlords' parliament; it had been created by the oligarchical power, but still the dangers of the state were imminent; and the oligarchy that was so violent and insolent when it was in safety, would be most tremulous and timid when it came into real danger [cheers]. It was their duty to stand by the people of England in that struggle, and a gentleman would address them who had come there to join with him in calling on the Irish to join in that struggle [hear].

Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, of Rochdale, and Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON, a deputation from the Anti-corn-law League, then addressed the meeting. They were listened to throughout with the greatest attention; and, on resuming their seats, were enthusiastically cheered. Their speeches, though admirable both in matter and manner, presented little beyond the facts and arguments with which our readers are familiar. Mr. Thompson concluded by expressing a hope of seeing an anti-corn-law association formed in Dublin, and petitions sent in from various parts of the country, for the repeal of the unjust laws, the effects of which he had been describing to them. [Cries of "So you will."]

The LORD MAYOR said that such an association should be formed, and the announcement was hailed with cheers.

The following resolutions were then passed unanimously:—

"That the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, by permitting the unrestricted importation of food, would essentially advance the agricultural condition of Ireland, and would establish and revive Irish trade and manufacture."

"That it is expedient that all Ireland should petition for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and that measures be taken to procure signatures to the petitions."

The LORD MAYOR said he would undertake to get signatures to the petitions.

SCOTLAND.

A numerous and influential meeting of the merchants, bankers, and manufacturers of Glasgow and the vicinity, was held at Glasgow, on Wednesday, the 15th inst., to promote the formation of the projected line of railway between England and Scotland, recommended by the government commissioners, when several resolutions were passed, subscriptions entered into, and a committee appointed out of the gentlemen present, consisting of the Lord Provost of Glasgow; the Chief magistrate of Gorbals; the Provost of Calton; Dean of Guild, Glasgow; Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow; Chairman of Trades' House, Glasgow; James Oswald, Esq., M.P.; John Dennistoun, Esq., M.P.; Alexander Johnstone, Esq., M.P., and other gentlemen, to collect subscriptions and direct the completion of the plans and surveys required by the House of Commons, to be completed before the 1st March next. This survey will be in continuation of that now in rapid progress between Lancaster and Carlisle.

The number of ministers and members of dissenting churches who have promised to attend the great Anti-corn-law Conference in Edinburgh, on the 11th and 12th January next, has greatly exceeded the most sanguine anticipations of its projectors; every post brings additional names. The meeting will be the largest and most influential ever held in Scotland on the subject of the corn laws. In addition to those who are to attend, nearly 300 other ministers, who are unable to leave their homes, have signified their cordial approbation of the proposed meeting, and their anxious desire to do everything in their power to promote the total abolition of the corn and provision laws, which they regard as unjust in principle, and contrary to the spirit of Christianity.

In addition to the conference to be held at Edinburgh, we understand that Friday the 14th and Saturday the 15th of January have been fixed upon for a demonstration in Glasgow, at favour of a total repeal of the corn and provision laws.

It is very currently reported in well-informed circles, that the negotiations for some time pending for the adjustment of the unfortunate differences in the church of Scotland, have been brought to a termination, and that Sir R. Peel will consent to the introduction of a bill by the Duke of Argyle. As a preliminary, all the proceedings in the general assembly against the Strathbogie ministers are to be rescinded.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, December 29th, 1841.

The American President's Message to Congress arrived yesterday by the packet ship Independence. It is very lengthy, and is a document of importance to this country, not in its political relations only, but also in its bearings upon commerce and finance. M'Leod's case, the burning of the Caroline, the boundary question, and the right of search, occupy a prominent portion of the President's address. Of the first he observes, that M'Leod had the option to prosecute a writ of error from the decision of the Supreme Court of New York to the Supreme Court of the United States; and hence it is implied, that as he did not avail himself of this alternative, but submitted his case to a jury, as the readiest mode of obtaining his liberation, the federal government had not the opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon his case. A desire, however, is intimated for the adoption of such provisions in the law as will, in future, prevent similar occurrences. The President expresses a doubt as to whether the owner of the Caroline engaged in the Navy Island affair from sympathy with the insurgents, or for purposes of private gain, and supposing the probability to be in favour of the latter, asserts that if, upon full inquiry, it shall appear that he was influenced by a hostile intent, he can have no claim for indemnity. On the boundary question regret is expressed at the slow advance made towards its adjustment, but the hope of a satisfactory conclusion is reiterated, and a strong protest is made against the right of search. Considering the document altogether, it affords assurance of the preservation of amicable relations and reciprocating policy between the two countries.

The speech of Louis Philippe, at the opening of the Chambers has been received, it possesses little interest, its only allusion to foreign relations being the announcement of the co-operation of France with the other European powers in maintaining the general peace, and consolidating the repose of the Ottoman empire. It makes no reference to the treaty recently executed for the suppression of the slave trade.

The French journals also contain two important documents—the declaration of the major part of the newspaper press of Paris, and that of the committee of the Literary Society on the late conviction of M. Dupont, the editor of the *Journal du Peuple*, by the Court of Peers. The address of the journalists is cool and moderate up to the last paragraph, which contains in italics, an appeal to the patriotism, and the courage of the national guards and of all French citizens.

Intelligence has been received of the death of John Beatty West, Esq., Queen's counsel, and one of the representatives for Dublin. The melancholy event took place at five o'clock on Monday morning, at Mount Anville, near this city, the residence of Judge Burton, the father-in-law of Mr. West.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The supply this morning is very small, both of English and Foreign corn, and scarcely any business is doing. Prices the same as on Monday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. Taylor's letter shall be inserted next week, if possible, with a notice.
"James Humphrys" received.

"Onesimus." We are sorry that pressure of matter delayed his letter until now. He will see that the insertion of his remarks would be somewhat untimely at present.

The present volume of the *Nonconformist* will close with this number. The second volume will commence next Wednesday. And on the first Wednesday in February will be published a title page and index, which will be delivered gratis to those who wish to discontinue the paper, upon application.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

For 8 lines	5s. 0d.	For 16 lines	7 0	For 24 lines	9 0
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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1841.

SPONTANEOUS EFFORTS AT POLITICAL REFORM.

SCARCELY had the declaration of Joseph Sturge and the leaders of the anti-corn-law movement been given to the public, when a numerous meeting held at Bath, a report of which will be found in our columns, set its seal to that important document. In that city, the gratifying spectacle has been exhibited, of a formal union between the middle and the labouring classes. They met on the same platform. The representatives of each were heard, not only with marked attention, but with enthusiastic applause. Their resolutions, the one on the corn laws, the other on the suffrage, were passed unanimously—and a tone of harmony ran through their whole proceedings, to which the public ear has been too long a stranger. The motion on the suffrage was framed in exact unison with Mr. Sturge's declaration, a circumstance which, whether accidental or designed, indicates the satisfaction which it will give to the great body of working men. Bath has thus set a noble example, worthy of imitation by every town in the empire.

The *Leicestershire Mercury* of Friday last, announces the intention of William Biggs, Esq., to publish next week a "Midland Counties Charter," which it is said will "afterwards be submitted to a Midland Counties convention of dissenting ministers and whig-radical reformers, to be held at Derby or some central point, early in the ensuing month." Of the nature of this forthcoming document, we know nothing. Its local title is not to our taste. Its announcement, after the publication of Joseph Sturge's manly but simple declaration, strikes us as ill-timed, and awakens in our minds, we confess, a suspicion that Mr. Biggs is not prepared to adopt complete suffrage as the basis of union between the now divided classes. Time will quickly show whether our fears are only visionary. Meanwhile, we regard the movement with satisfaction, as a testimony to the growing earnestness of manufacturing employers and traders for a broad and substantial measure of political reform.

Yes! these spontaneous and unconnected outbursts of opinion, unimportant as they may appear in themselves, even if they should lead to no immediate practical results, betoken the existence of a strong under-current of feeling in favour of political equality. They are the first escapes of steam, which aristocratic tyranny has been for some time past generating, and which, ere long, will set society in motion towards an efficient popular representation. Like the small jets of fire and smoke which suddenly and simultaneously break out on the sides of a volcano, they give notice of an unusual heaving of the elements beneath the surface, and indicate at no distant period a grand eruption. The efforts to which we have adverted result from no application of artificial stimulus. They are not the few sparks which laborious party friction may occasionally succeed in throwing off. They cannot be interpreted as a reverberation of lusty shouts uttered by political leaders. They come out one by one upon the surface of the public mind as though there were in that mind a fulness of feeling which no incrustation of prejudice will be strong enough much longer to smother—a gathering resolution which must have vent—an increasing sense of want, which though concealed for a season by false pride, is just beginning to express itself articulately, and will soon demand satisfaction in tones which none can mistake. All the latent opinion of the country is becoming active—and theoretical notions are filtering from the understanding into the will.

We have no expectation that this new element of political force will be turned to immediate practical account. Here and there, as it progressively expands, a disengagement may take place, serving no other purpose than to indicate its increasing intensity. We confess, however, to our extreme anxiety that well-organised machinery may be devised and constructed, to which, at the fitting moment, it may be most effectively applied. In less than three months hence, we anticipate a settlement of the corn-law question upon a basis of injustice, and with a supercilious disregard of popular opinion and contempt of national interests, which will push home conviction to the most incredulous, that nothing is to be hoped for from a parliament of landowners. The plan of Sir Robert Peel, which we have no doubt will be carried with little alteration by large majorities, can hardly be said to be a secret any longer. Mr. Christopher's speech at Lincoln may be looked upon as tolerable evidence that the revelation of the *Globe* was substantially correct. To defeat the ministerial measure, if possible, will be the first and most urgent duty of the corn-law-repealers. But suppose them unsuccessful—suppose the plan now before the public to be em-

bodied in an act of parliament, as in all probability it will be—what is to be the next move? Another five year's agitation for corn-law repeal, carried on under all the disadvantages of divided strength and conscious inability, or a union of all reformers for complete suffrage?

We may be mistaken in our judgment of the matter, but to our minds it seems clear that a further agitation for commercial reform, considered as a distinct and primary object, will in such case be found impracticable. The sacrifice of money, ease, social comfort, and, not seldom, ties of friendship, involved in any great public struggle, will never be offered except upon the altar of hope. They are commonly rendered as pre-payment for that which we expect at no distant period to realise. The activity of the Anti-corn-law League, their perseverance amid evil and good report, their impressive public meetings, their lectures, conferences, and conventions, the incessant and energetic working of the press on their behalf, their numerous memorials, their innumerable petitions—when it is seen that all these means have failed to wring from the legislature more than the paltriest modification of the existing system, confidence in the efficiency of such tactics under present circumstances will expire, and a recommencement of the siege will be impossible. Then, we anticipate, the question of the suffrage will be thrown up foremost upon the public mind.

For, it would argue a strange ignorance of human nature to suppose, that the strong current of feeling which has set in towards free trade, meeting with an insurmountable barrier in its course, will thereupon cease to flow, or roll back again towards its fountain head. When was a nation's will ever thwarted successfully? Will it not immediately furrow out for itself another channel, nor stay its onward course until it has found an outlet? But for the impediments which landlord legislation throws in its way, the stream would have quietly made its way to commercial reform—that being rendered impossible, it will take another direction, will effect a junction with the broader and deeper waters which are rolling on to effectual political reform, and become a tributary to swell the majestic river into a power and a volume which nothing earthly can resist. Complete suffrage will ere long become the rallying cry of all parties.

HINTS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMPLETE SUFFRAGE.

IN our last number, we marked out the sphere within which, according to our judgment, the efforts of the friends of complete suffrage should be most energetically put forth. They are to aim at securing the constituencies of the kingdom. We promised to return to this subject; and we think it a not inappropriate task, in this concluding number of our present volume, to throw out a few general remarks touching the character of those means which strike us as being best adapted for success. For ourselves, unimportant as may be our labours, we hope throughout the approaching year to be found constantly at our post; and, having in view to expose the more prominent evils which have flowed from class legislation—being convinced moreover that amongst many readers there must reside an amount of information on this subject which no single mind can be supposed to have acquired, we respectfully invite a contribution to our common stock of materials, of all facts, statistical, legal, and moral, illustrative of the injury and injustice inflicted upon our country by entrusting the business of legislation to an exclusive class.

We would by no means have it imagined, that the formation of public opinion, as distinguished from electoral opinion, is regarded by us as a matter of no importance. We certainly deprecate the attempt to reach our constituencies by the roundabout road which has usually been taken. Time presses—and the extremity to which our country is reduced urges that "what we do, we do quickly." Our ordinary path would be round the base of the mountain. Under present circumstances we deem it wiser to abandon it, and make a desperate effort to push across the summit. Rapidity of movement opens to us almost the only chance of success. Before our strength is suspected—ere we can fairly be regarded as a party—whilst aristocracy laughs at us as doting visionaries, and deems opposition to us a work of supererogation, we may thus noiselessly get amongst electors, draw over to us a vast portion of the intelligence, worth, morality, and benevolence of that body, and secure a pledge of their co-operation in the day of battle. But whatever can be done in addition to this, to inform and mould the public mind, will undoubtedly aid rather than impede our cause. It will be a *corps de reserve* stationed immediately at the rear of our electoral ranks, which, although never called into direct action, will animate the spirits and brace up the energies of those upon whom the action will necessarily devolve.

There is another point deserving of serious consideration. It would ill become the advocates of complete suffrage to reject aid by whomsoever proffered. But we counsel them to beware of committing their cause to the hands of mere politicians, influential though they may be. Experience teaches us that, under their management, all great questions of equity are taken up and laid aside as weapons of party—used as occasion serves, and dropped when occasion requires. We wish to cast no unworthy reflection upon the character of the men, to deal out to them no uncharitable censure. But we cannot conceal from ourselves, or our readers, what the events of the last ten years have rendered obvious, that however useful in action they are unfitted for the council. Their views are parliamentary, not national. Their tactics may be clever, but then they are those of the old school. They resemble the Austrian generals whom Buonaparte successively encountered and overcame—they have no idea beyond the *ancien régime*. They

have no faith in moral power—they pay no homage to moral worth. They weigh questions by votes. They count heads, not arguments. As leaders, they are never to be trusted, for they will usually give up the whole cause for a petty advantage. Confidence in their sincerity is a thing of bygone days. You may search through the kingdom for it in vain. The movement, consequently, must be independent of them. They will soon join the ranks when they find themselves in danger of being left behind. And as auxiliaries they may render effective service.

Equally important, we think, will it be, to base our agitation upon the ground of equity and constitutional principle, rather than upon that of political expediency. Not that the probable results which complete suffrage would compass should be left out of consideration—they constitute a strong additional argument for its adoption. But it must ever be remembered that results are problematical—justice, fixed and constant. Address the moral sense of man, and you gain a powerful ally within his bosom—conscience, who will second all your arguments, and give force to all your solicitations, and unbar the understanding to reasonings which, but for its aid, would never have forced an entrance. Expediency, even when it convinces, often fails to persuade. Not so grave principles of equity. Let these be earnestly wielded, bring these right home to the conscience, and you establish an authority over men which sooner than any other power will drive out of their minds old and fondly cherished prejudices. Bring them only to the point of duty, and bid them view the subject from that position, and the whole question will present itself to them under another aspect. The objections of those who before repudiated it will cease to appear formidable. Interest will be excited where once there was nothing but indifference. Thousands will be surprised into conclusions they had no idea of admitting, and what we gain in this way will be the heavy metal of society—men of thought, of character, of influence, whose accession to our ranks will draw after them numbers who see only with *their* eyes and judge only with *their* judgment.

That the means we employ should be peaceable is a matter of course. It may be well, however, that we bear in mind what this implies. Our aim is to do away with exclusive political privileges, not to stir up ill-will against a class of our fellow-countrymen. The present system, not the men who wield it, must be the especial object of attack. Their conduct, indeed, is inexcusable—their folly and selfishness gross in the extreme—yet which of us can affirm that had we received their education, and had we been placed in their position, we should not have participated in their guilt? What is their legislation, but just a development of human nature planted in a soil which it was never intended to occupy? In them we see no other elements of being than those which we ourselves possess—the difference between them and us is nothing more than this, that their selfishness is forced into unnatural dimensions by hot-house culture, whilst ours is left to grow abroad and shoot up only as circumstances will permit. The wonder is, not that men with their exclusive privileges should act in utter disregard of great national interests, but that society should ever have consented to invest them with powers so manifestly dangerous to the public peace. It will be not only wise, therefore, but also just, to eschew all means which mark out the persons of the aristocracy for public indignation. They will reap enough of it without our aid—such is the natural punishment which sooner or later always overtakes abuse of power. Against class legislation we cannot be too severe—but there is no necessity for representing class legislators as demons in human form. We ought to be especially anxious to countenance no means, which in their obvious tendency go beyond the necessity of the case; and which, aiming to do justice to one class, would inflict injustice upon another. Great moral ends cannot be wrought out by means essentially immoral. To do evil that good may come, is usually as unsuccessful as it is wicked.

On these general principles, then, we think that the formation of some central society may be speedily effected which shall have affiliated associations over the whole surface of the country. Its first work would be to ascertain the exact position of constituencies in regard to this question—its next to supply them with information, and bring to bear upon them the most efficient arguments—its third duty would be to secure electoral pledges—and lastly it might aid local arrangements for the introduction of suitable candidates; and whilst pursuing these its main purposes, it might assist in all suitable means adopted with a view to create public opinion.

Let some such course as this be immediately entered upon, and earnestly prosecuted, and two effects will certainly follow. It will render quite unnecessary any attempt to make formal terms with the present leaders of the industrious classes. If they are sincere, they will hail the movement with delight—but if dishonest, they cannot frustrate it. We have only to set ourselves in thorough truthfulness to secure for working men their rights, and he must be a strangely clever tactician who can persuade them to stand in the way, or who can long dissever from us their good will. On the other hand, leading politicians, who if consulted would declare that the movement would be premature by twenty years, and would damage the *reform interest* more than serve it, will, immediately upon our making head, discover a hundred reasons why they should join us. The *vis inertiae* being once overcome, progress will be rapid in a geometrical ratio. A move in the right direction is all we want.

LEGISLATIVE BLUNDERS OF A SECONDARY CLASS.

WERE that rude chaos, unformed, apparently, and void—the statutes of the realm, subjected to a strict analysis, we believe it might be found susceptible of scientific classification. Regarded simply as successive deposits of aristocratic selfishness, ignorance, and whim,

it would be neither uninteresting nor uninstructive to trace the history of the various formations which now come under our notice in the shape of acts of parliament. There is a primary class, comprehending corn laws, stamp acts, church rates, &c.; a secondary class, to which we may refer capital punishments, imprisonment for debt, flogging in the army, navy impressments, imposition of oaths, and a host of kindred subjects; and a tertiary class, which consists of such a variety of petty annoyances, that any attempt to enumerate them would ridiculously fall short of the reality.

Recent events have directed attention, so exclusively, to the primary evils of class legislation, that we are laid under obligation to any journal which avails itself of suitable opportunities for reminding us, that besides restrictive commercial policy and unequal taxation, and ecclesiastical intolerance and avarice, there are absurdities of a serious character, which, if less extensively mischievous, are yet sufficiently annoying to claim attention. The *Globe* of Friday last has done the state some service. Its notice of a case which occurred in the Bankruptcy Court on the previous day, and its able article upon the subject suggested by that case, deserve the thanks of all who wish well to common sense, truth, and religion. We tender the writer our expressions of gratitude, and if we now add some observations of our own, it is not because we deem his arguments defective, or his mode of presenting them other than it should be. The following summary of the facts we extract from its columns:—

"The case in substance was as follows:—A bankrupt, on appearing, a few days since, before the commissioner on whose list his case was entered, refused to be sworn, alleging that he had conscientious scruples which he held sacred; and his solicitor being prepared to argue that the law would be satisfied by his affirmation, a subdivision court was held yesterday, for the purpose of hearing such arguments as might be advanced in support of his refusal to be sworn. The Court decided that the objecting party did not come within the exemptions allowed by the legislature—not belonging to one of the privileged sects—and as the bankrupt persisted in his refusal to be sworn, 'with a full knowledge of all the consequences to which he was rendered liable by such refusal,' his committal was signed and he was forthwith sent to the prison of the Queen's Bench."

This is only one of the numerous legislative anomalies which meet us at every turn, illustrative of the jobbing and pottering propensities of our present law-makers. They know not how to remedy the evil of a broken window, otherwise than by stuffing a bundle of rags into the hole—to repair and re-glaze the whole sash is beyond the range of their experience. They cannot trust a principle. They make laws for special cases. They dole out relief on no intelligible and systematic rule, but as necessity absolutely requires. They cut up the human family into sects, and deal not with man as man, but as Jew or Quaker, Independent, Catholic or Moravian. Here they enjoin and there relax—grant in one case what they refuse in another—recognise in respect to one party truths which in respect to all others they repudiate—in short, they perpetually contradict themselves.

We have no hesitation in ascribing the anomalous and barbarous inconsistencies which abound in our statute law, to the class prejudices of the little sect who hold in their hands the power of legislation. Vested with exclusive privileges, and lifted into a position of authority in perfect independence of any reasonable qualifications for wielding it with advantage, they gradually acquire a notion that all wisdom originates in their body, and that every demand upon them by the common sense of society, is *pro tanto* an invasion of their rights and consequently to be resisted to the utmost. Nothing, in their estimation, can be expected to go right unless it runs in the groove of law. They, consequently, meddle with every conceivable thing, and ridicule nothing so much as relying upon the operation of great natural and moral principles. Society, according to their opinion, would be a most deformed and unsightly thing but for their straps and bandages—and the truthfulness and conscientiousness which are founded upon reverence of divine authority, apart from or in opposition to their own acts of parliament, a mere cloak of hypocrisy for the concealment of faction. When obliged at last to give way, they give way only to the extent of the pressure brought to bear upon them—evidently under an impression that the loosening of a single legislative cord is an evil, and that relief, reluctantly administered, must at all events never exceed the immediate necessity of the case. Hence, laws and institutions which reason repudiates, and which out of parliament can find no apologist, are defended and upheld by both houses of our legislature, with a most unyielding and dogged pertinacity.

The subject suggested by the valuable article in the *Globe*, the folly of administering oaths, where the party conscientiously objects to swear, is well deserving of separate consideration. Our own opinion is that all oaths ought to be abolished. The reasons upon which we found that opinion we propose to give in a future number.

SUMMARY.

CHRISTMAS had wont to be in olden times a season of feasting and hilarity. *Nous avons changé tout cela.* The Christmas of 1841 has been witness to more extended and intense suffering in this country, than it ever saw before. The hungry are not fed—the industrious are not employed—the trader is without custom—commerce can find no market—capital no remunerating investment. We have an hereditary House of Lords, and a House of Commons chosen by £10 householders—and who would exchange privileges and glories such as these for national prosperity? No! let us starve at the bidding-of our rulers, and quietly lie down in ruin—a wider constituency and common-sense institutions may suit Americans, but are ill-adapted to the taste of Britons! Better perish under an aristocracy than flourish under a democracy.

In the metropolis, Christmas day saw other sufferers besides the hungry and the houseless. No less than eight fires, most of them

serious ones, were raging in London, on that day, at one time. We are happy to say they were not attended with loss of life. Provincial intelligence, though of a different character, is still more disastrous. On the Great Western Railway, an accident of a most appalling nature, caused by a landslip, occurred—by which eight lives were lost and about twenty persons have been severely injured. At Manchester an event equally calamitous has plunged several families into the deepest distress. A number of workmen employed in clearing the ruins caused by the late fire at Messrs. Patchett and Jones's were suddenly overwhelmed by the fall of the remaining walls, and six persons were crushed to death. Both events have contributed to throw a gloom over the festivities of the season.

We mentioned in our last number that a public meeting had been held at Bath, with a view to effect a union between the middle and the labouring classes. We present our readers with a report of it in this week's *Nonconformist*. It was more than successful—it was triumphant. The resolutions were ably drawn up, eloquently moved, and unanimously adopted. Great credit is due to the Rev. Thomas Spencer, perpetual curate of Hinton Charterhouse, near Bath, who boldly appeared at the meeting, and took a prominent part in its proceedings; and the speech of Mr. Vincent on the occasion, for ability, moderation of tone, and power of eloquence, is above all praise. Such meetings we hope to see held in every considerable town in the empire. Not before it is time, will a complete union be effected. Sir Robert Peel has indirectly given to the world a plan of his new sliding-scale. Mr. Christopher, a connexion be it remembered of the Duke of Buckingham, who met his constituents last week at Lincoln, whilst indignantly repudiating the idea that he was to be regarded as a "pilot balloon," evidently lets out the premier's intended measure on the corn laws. It differs very slightly from that put forth by the *Globe*—the price sliding in regular degrees of one shilling each from the highest to the lowest duty—from 20s., or 30s. to 5s.; the maximum being imposed when British wheat is at 50s., and the minimum at 65s. The average of market prices, upon which the duty is to be calculated, is to be made up by returns furnished by the producer as well as by the dealer, each under his own hand, in a form prepared for the purpose—and some of the large towns are to be wholly excluded from returning averages, with a view to prevent the manœuvres of corn merchants. Such is the precious fruit of Sir Robert's unparalleled wisdom, after several months of extensive inquiry and profound meditation. Of course the manufacturers will reject it with scorn, and equally of course, it will be carried in spite of them. We refer our readers to the report of the great anti-corn-law meeting held at Dublin, under the auspices of the Lord Mayor, O'Connell.

The Court of Peers, in Paris, has condemned M. Dupoty, and sentenced him to five years' confinement. The justice of this proceeding is hardly contended for. He was a troublesome editor—and the press must be curbed—for Louis Philippe is now walking in the self-same steps, and unless he is very careful to the self-same fate, as those of Charles the tenth. Is it possible to make a Bourbon wise?

The American President's message to Congress, a very lengthy and important document, and the speech of the King of the French at the opening of the session of the Chambers, have been received, but too late for us to make any comments upon them this week.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contains a list of seventy-three addresses of congratulation to the Queen on the birth of the Prince of Wales. These addresses were presented to her Majesty through the medium of the Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, with the exception of one from Tamworth, which was presented personally by Sir R. Peel.

It is said there is no doubt that it is the intention of his Majesty the King of Prussia to attend in person at the christening of the infant Prince of Wales, and that a squadron of ships of war will be despatched from this country to convey him and his retinue to England.

The Queen, we understand, has it in contemplation to visit, in the course of next year, the country houses of some of the most illustrious of her nobles. Strathfieldsaye is marked out as about to be the first honoured by the presence of royalty. They speak of Hatfield also, the seat of the Marquis of Salisbury, as standing high upon the list. Her Majesty, if she visit Hatfield, will find some of the oak tree still remaining under which the Princess Elizabeth sat when the messengers from London came to remove her from a species of prison to a throne. The idea of crossing over to Ireland, if it was ever seriously entertained, seems now to be abandoned.—*John Bull*.

A treaty on the subject of the slave trade, to which Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia are parties, was signed last Wednesday in Downing street, by Baron Schleinitz, Count St. Aulaire, the Earl of Aberdeen, Baron Kohler, and Baron Brunow.—*Post*.

IMPORTANT CHARTIST MOVEMENT IN BIRMINGHAM.

BIRMINGHAM, Tuesday Night.—This evening a numerous meeting of chartists assembled in the town hall, for the purpose of celebrating the first anniversary of the establishment of a society called "The Christian Chartists," who combined for the purpose of carrying out the principles of the charter by moral and peaceable means alone. There were a large number of deputies in attendance from chartists in different parts of the country holding opinions in accordance with those above stated, as also Colonel Thompson, Charles Sturge, Esq., and other gentlemen. Altogether there could not be less than two thousand persons present.

Mr. JOHN COLLINS, having been called to the chair, addressed the meeting chiefly in reference to the qualifications of the working classes for the enjoyment of the franchise. He contended that they possessed as much intelligence and virtue as any other class in the community, and showed that the grossest injustice was done them by the aristocracy in forming their estimate of the working population from that portion who were deprived of the means of acquiring just views of their own rights, or the rights of others, because tainted with crime.

Mr. Collins concluded by reading a number of letters which he had received from influential friends of the cause who had been invited to take part in the proceedings, but who were unable to attend: as also the following note, from Joseph Sturge, Esq., who was unable to attend during the early part of the proceedings:—

"To the Chairman of the Meeting to be held at the Town Hall, on the 28th inst.

"Understanding, that the company who assemble tomorrow evening are entirely composed of those who deprecate the employment of any means but those of a moral and peaceable character for the attainment of political rights and who also condemn the disturbance of meetings convened for other objects by the irregular introduction of this subject, I assented to the request made to me that I would be present on the occasion, under the erroneous impression, that it was not on the same day as a temperance meeting at Gloucester, which, I feel bound, by a previous engagement to attend. I expect, however, to be able to leave the latter sufficiently early to arrive before the meeting at Birmingham separates, but should I be unavoidably prevented, allow me to express my cordial sympathy with all, who, by such means alone as Christianity sanctions, endeavour to obtain a full, fair, and complete representation of the people in the British House of Commons, and my earnest desire that those who agree on main principles will not be prevented from acting cordially together for the attainment of this object by any little difference in minor points.

"Signed, very sincerely,

"JOSEPH STURGE."

The sentiments contained in Mr. Sturge's letter were cordially responded to by the meeting.

Mr. ROBERTS then addressed the meeting at considerable length, urging the adoption of the people's charter, as it was found to accord with the principles of Christianity, by which means he hoped to see it speedily become the law of the land. He rejoiced at the progress of their principles and the disposition which was manifested by the middle classes to join the working men in the attainment of their objects by moral and peaceable means and by holding firm to the entirety of the charter, he was persuaded that they would eventually compel justice from the legislature.

Mr. CHARLETON, of Kidderminster, made a few observations, after which,

Mr. JOSEPH STURGE, who had arrived during the proceedings, came forward amidst loud cheering to address the meeting. He said that, anxious that his fellow-countrymen might enjoy an entire equality of religious and political privileges, he willingly availed himself of every suitable opportunity for expressing his sympathy with those who by strictly legitimate and peaceable means were endeavouring to secure this great object for themselves and others. Although he might not in every point unite in opinion with those who constituted the present meeting, there was one subject upon which he hoped they all agreed and that was—in the desire that the people of this empire should have a fair control over their own concerns, by a full and complete representation in the British House of Commons [cheers]. In reading the work written before upon this subject, by John Collins and Wm. Lovett, during their incarceration in prison, he was much gratified by the manner in which the questions of education, temperance, and peace had been dwelt upon, as the quiet and legitimate means by which alone the liberties of the people could be legitimately secured; for himself, he was firmly persuaded that the most powerful combinations of class legislature upon earth could not long oppress a people who had received an enlightened and Christian education, and who were always temperate and peaceable [cheers]. In reference to the subject of temperance more particularly, Mr. Sturge observed, that if all the inhabitants of the United Kingdom would only agree to abstain from the use of all intoxicating drinks for twelve months, this alone would nearly, if not altogether, accomplish the object which the people had in view, while it would contribute in no small degree to the comfort and happiness of hundreds of thousands of individuals [hear, hear]. Some, perhaps, might not be fully aware that the revenue derived by the government from this source was about equal to the whole cost of the standing army and navy; and they might rest assured that the aristocracy dare not uphold laws to deprive the people of their rights, if they were not backed by the army and navy and an armed police [cheers]. He believed also that if the people consistently acted on the principle of peace, all unjust laws would speedily be abolished [renewed cheers]. Holding such principles and believing it to be unlawful under any circumstances to take away human life, the members of the society to which he belonged conscientiously refused to enlist, and if such views were carried out generally, they would do more to secure the destruction of class legislation than by all the physical force in the world [cheers]. He rejoiced in the belief, that the small section of the people who once advocated the latter course were daily lessening, while he was cheered with the hope that the mutual jealousies which had kept honest men from meeting for the attainment of the great object all had in view were rapidly giving way; and notwithstanding the discouragements by which they were surrounded, that the time was not far distant when, under the blessing of Providence on the efforts of the humble and temperate, but firm and united, efforts of the friends of justice, the enormous evils of class legislation would be swept away for ever [loud cheering]. It was his fervent desire that those enlightened and single-hearted men who were now ardently and humbly working in the cause might enjoy the happiness of transmitting to posterity the blessings of a truly pure and just government, unalloyed by a single feeling of self-condemnation for the means by which it was achieved. Mr. Sturge concluded his address amidst general and hearty cheers.

Colonel THOMPSON then came forward, and was received with loud cheering, after which he said he had been requested to propose a sentiment with which they were all familiar, but of the importance of which they could not too often consider. It was "the greatest happiness to the greatest number." Before he proceeded further, they must allow him to congratulate them upon the great change in their circumstances since last year. As David had said, their "feet had been set in a large room," and it was quite plain they were rising in the world, and their cause was thriving, like all good causes when followed up with honesty, patience, and perseverance. The gallant Colonel then proceeded to consider the sentiment committed to him, and drew from it those reflections which it naturally suggested in reference to popular government.

Mr. EDWARD BROWN proposed, and Mr. JENNING seconded the adoption of a memorial to the Queen, praying the return of the convicts, Frost, Williams, Jones, Roberts and Howell, transported during the last two years.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT MANCHESTER.—One of the most destructive fires broke out on Monday week, which has been known in Manchester for many years, the flames spreading with such rapidity that within a few hours after the fire was discovered, damage estimated at more than 30,000*l.*, was done. The building destroyed is a warehouse situated in Piccadilly, near the heart of Manchester, and was occupied by Messrs. Patchett and Jones, carriers. The supply of water both from plugs in the street and the canal was good, and the engines were brought into play in an incredibly short space of time. Short as the time lost had been, however, it was too great to leave a chance of saving the property. The goods in the warehouse, which were of immense quantity, and supposed to exceed 20,000*l.* in value, were of an extremely combustible nature, consisting principally of cotton, corn, and groceries, and the flames having, it is supposed, got well hold of the cotton, which was in the lower part of the building, when the fire was first discovered, spread with a rapidity almost unprecedented. The whole building was wrapped in flames by the time the engines got into play; and under these circumstances the exertions of the firemen were directed to saving the surrounding property. In a few hours from the first discovery of the fire the whole of this large pile of warehousing was a heap of ruins.

FALL OF THE ABOVE PREMISES, AND DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—Though the warehouse had been completely gutted by the fire, two of the entire walls were left standing; and that at the back of the building, to the south of Piccadilly, about ninety feet high, by one hundred feet in length, was carried, by means of two stone arches, over the Rochdale canal. This wall was about to be removed, at four o'clock on Friday afternoon, by some men in the employ of Mr. Paudling, a railway contractor, who were erecting some scaffolding against it, when the stone of one of the arches, which had become rotten, and nearly pulverised by the heat of the fire, giving way, the arch collapsed, and the wall, dividing into two portions, fell, a heap of ruins, upon the men who were below. Search was made immediately for the bodies of those who were said to be under the ruins, the result of which is, that five of the workmen are now lying dead at the infirmary, and two are not expected to live, whilst nine others are seriously injured and wounded.

FIRE AND NARROW ESCAPE.—On Wednesday morning last, a destructive fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Smith, watch and clock maker, St. John-square, Clerkenwell, which entirely destroyed the stock, furniture, and premises. The inmates were removed just in time with only their night dresses on. The fire commenced in the shop, but in what manner it originated is not known.

FIRE.—No less than eight destructive fires were raging at one time in the metropolis and suburbs on the morning of Christmas day. Four or five of them were occasioned by the overheating of stoves and flues for the purpose of cooking Christmas dinners.

ANOTHER CHILD BURNT.—On Thursday morning a little boy, named Henry Harman Hayes, whose parents reside at Sarah's buildings, Lower Thames street, had been left for a few minutes in a room by himself, when by some means he set his clothes on fire. His screams alarmed his mother, who, on running to his assistance, found him in a blaze. She extinguished the flames as speedily as her fright would allow, and he was conveyed to the hospital. Not the remotest hopes are entertained of his recovery.

A SIMPLE REMEDY AS A PREVENTIVE TO CHILDREN BEING BURNT.—The following simple but excellent preventive to children being burnt, by their dresses at this season of the year accidentally taking fire during the absence of parents, was recommended, and found to be an excellent preventive, by the late Thomas Stirling, Esq., coroner of Middlesex, viz., the dresses, after being washed, should be well dipped in strong alum-water, which prevents either muslin or linen dresses blazing, and which would be the means of preventing numerous fatal accidents.

DREADFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—An accident, attended with more deplorable consequences than any we have yet had occasion to record, occurred on Friday morning on the Great Western railway, and has deprived no less than eight unfortunate beings of life, besides inflicting serious injuries on many others. It appears that the luggage-train, which leaves Paddington at half-past 4 a.m., was proceeding downwards at the usual hour, with about 38 passengers, chiefly of the poorer class, who were looking forward to a Christmas holiday in the country, when on reaching the middle of the Sonning-hill cutting, about two miles and a half from Reading, it suddenly came in contact with a mass of earth which had slipped from the slope above, and covered one of the rails to the depth of two or three feet. On meeting with this obstruction, the engine was immediately forced off the rail, dragging the tender after it; the next truck, which contained the passengers, was thrown athwart the line, and in an instant was overwhelmed by the trucks behind, which were thrown up into the air by the violence of the collision, and fell with fearful force upon it. The engineer, and the guard, who was in the same truck with the passengers, had just time to perceive the danger, and springing from the carriages, escaped; but of the rest of the passengers, no less than eight, shocking to say, were killed on the spot, and seventeen others more or less severely wounded. These were conveyed, as soon as possible, to the Reading hospital, where every attention which the dreadful circumstances of the case required was paid them. Four were sufficiently recovered to be enabled to proceed on their journey the same day, and the rest, with the exception of one or two who lie in a very precarious state, are reported to be going on favourably. A decand of one thousand pounds sterling on the engine was given by the inquest held on the unfortunate victims.

DESTITUTION.—An inquest was held on Thursday night, at the Cumberland's Head, City road, on the body of Samuel Adams, a carpenter, aged 53. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased had been living in a cellar at No. 11, Adam and Eve court, Whitecross street, his only means of subsistence being the charity of his neighbours. On Monday last, moans being heard to proceed from his wretched abode, a police constable entered, and found the deceased in a crouching position, with his left hand severely burnt, having fallen into the fire whilst in a fit, brought on by want. He begged of the officer to take

him to the workhouse, as he was starving; which was done. He was attacked with successive fits and died the following morning.—Same evening an inquest was held on view of the body of Elizabeth Symonds, aged 45, who lived in Grange yard, Carey street. On Wednesday morning, information was brought to the landlord that deceased had died suddenly. He accordingly went to her room, and found her door locked. He knocked and called, but deceased did not answer. He then broke the door open, and found deceased dead, and lying in a kneeling position before the fire-place. A knife and a piece of wood were lying near her, as if she had been attempting to light the fire. Surgical aid was instantly procured, but it was found that life was completely extinct. Deceased was in a very destitute condition, her only means of subsistence being a trifle that she got every week by going as charwoman to the house of a friend in Cromer street. Her husband had deserted her for several years past.

ATROCIOS MURDER NEAR WEM, SHROPSHIRE.—A murder has been perpetrated at the above place under circumstances of great atrocity. A wife, with the assistance of her husband, has administered poison to both her parents, and the mother has fallen a victim, the father escaping, and an innocent person has since died in extreme agony from the effect of the deadly food of which he had been a partaker. The name of the old man is Arthur Williams, who resides at Whixall, within three miles of Wem, in Shropshire, and the perpetrators of the horrid crime, Thomas Harries and his wife Mary, lived in the same cottage with the father and his deceased wife Eliza Williams. The prisoner, Thomas Harries, had been previously married, his former wife having died four years ago, leaving two children, who resided in the same cottage with the prisoners. It appeared that the deceased had been in the habit of correcting these children, and Harries had said that he would remember her for it; and this is the only motive that can at present be assigned for the deed. On Monday week the deceased partook of an apple dumpling at dinner, and was instantly taken ill, the symptoms increasing in virulence so rapidly that by nine o'clock the same evening she was a corpse. Her husband did not eat any of the dumpling, being too ill, from having taken a small portion of the poisonous mineral on the previous night; and the third party was the son of a neighbour, to whom the female prisoner had given the remainder of the poisoned food.

COINCIDENCES.—A Christmas day on a Saturday has not occurred since 1830—a year memorable for the death of George the Fourth, and the accession to the throne of William the Fourth. The last time Christmas day was on Saturday, Christmas day was marked by great distress, among the working classes particularly. The Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Lyndhurst, and the tory party were in power. The parliament met shortly after; great and many revolutions followed. From the similarity of the times, a crisis seems not far off that must divert the force of our institutions from their present direction. Crime is everywhere increasing. Its precursor—poverty—is everywhere increasing. The population is increasing, and employment for the people is diminishing—the result may be conjectured.—*Bedford Mercury.*

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Last week, thirteen geese, which had been landed from the city of Aberdeen steamer on the Aberdeen wharf, at St. Katherine's, and were intended as presents to various individuals in London, were inspected by an excise waterman, named Young, who found them to be unusually heavy, and on opening one of them he found it to contain a bottle of over-proof whiskey, which had never before passed under the eyes of the customs or excise. This discovery induced him to cut open the others, and they were all in the same condition—there was a bottle of real Ferintosh in each. Young seized the geese and their contents on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and removed his prize to the Excise-office. A number of fine young sucking pigs have been lately seized with their insides filled with Scotch whiskey, and on Saturday no less than thirty Dutch turkeys were captured in front of the Custom-house, which were stuffed with Hollands gin.

AGRICULTURE.—We find the following in a French paper (*the Journal des Débats*), and offer it without comment:—"There has been much said in the journals lately of a process by which grain is produced, without tilling, manuring, or harrowing, and in the poorest soil. This discovery, which, as yet, must be looked on as problematical, consists merely in covering over the grain with a layer of straw—by which simple means germination is induced and a crop obtained. The following are the results of the experiments which have been made by Messrs. Charles Paillard and Bernard de Brest:—'In a field sown with rye,' say they, 'because the soil, according to the farmer, was too poor for wheat, a strip, neither ploughed nor dunged, of about a hundred feet square in extent was put at our disposal. This fallow ground we manured, and covered with straw to the depth of about an inch. Next, in a garden, the soil of which is the worst possible, and which has received no manure for many years, we scattered wheat, covered over with straw. Finally, to establish more fully the fact that the ground is nothing more than a means of support, we placed twenty grains on squares of glass, and these also we covered over with straw. Germination soon manifested itself, and under the finest appearances. The winter was very severe. The exposed ground of the garden was frozen to a crust of upwards of six inches in thickness, more than once during the season, and many plants perished; whilst beneath the straw, the same ground remained soft and light, and the seed consequently uninjured. In the spring we had long droughts; and whilst all around suffered from them, our stalks rooted in a moist soil, thanks to the straw, grew vigorously. We had the finest possible harvest. Some of our stalks grew to six feet in height, bearing fifty, sixty, even eighty-two grains, large, and exciting the admiration of the curious, who came to look at them. Above all, the wheat on glass excited their astonishment—amazed at seeing that, without the smallest foundation of earth, and unwatered, the ears were as fine and full as those sprung out of the ground.'"

SPEEDY JUSTICE.—The Chancery case of "Blake and others v. the Minister and Freeholders of Whaplode Drove Chapelry," regarding the funds of the same, was settled last month, nineteen years and four days after the commencement of the suit!

CUSTOMS REVENUES.—The Customs Revenue of this country is derived from 1,150 articles of commerce, producing altogether a revenue of £22,162,610. Of this sum £21,700,630 is derived from the following seventeen articles:—1. Sugar and Molasses, £4,827,018. 2. Tea, £3,658,800. 3. Tobacco, 3,495,686. 4. Rum, Brandy, &c., £2,615,443. 5. Wine, £1,848,709. 6. Timber, £1,603,194. 7. Corn, £1,098,779. 8. Coffee, £779,114. 9. Cotton wool, £416,257. 10. Silk manufactures, £247,362. 11. Butter, £213,077. 12. Currants, £189,291. 13. Tallow, £182,000. 14. Seeds, £135,355. 15. Sheep's wool, £130,770. 16. Raisins, £134,589. 17. Cheese, £105,218.—The 17 articles producing, £21,700,632.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS.—A return of the number of monuments erected in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's, at the public expense, from the year 1750 to the present time, specifying the names of the persons in whose honour they were erected, and the sums paid for each: Westminster Abbey—General Wolfe, 3,000*l.*; Lord Chatham, 6,000*l.*; Lord Robert Manners, Capt. Bayne, and Captain Blair, 4,000*l.*; Captain Montague, 3,675*l.*; Captain Harvey and Captain Hutt, 3,150*l.*; William Pitt, 6,300*l.*; Spencer Percival, 5,250*l.*; St. Paul's—Lord Rodney, 6,300*l.*; General Lord Heathfield, 2,100*l.*; Earl Howe, 6,300*l.*; Major-General Dundas, 3,150*l.*; Capt. Faulkner, R.N., 4,200*l.*; Earl St. Vincent, 2,100*l.*; Lord Duncan, 2,100*l.*; Captain Burgess, R.N., 5,250*l.*; Captain Westcott, R.N., 4,200*l.*; Captains Moss and Rivers, R.N., 4,200*l.*; Sir Ralph Abercrombie, 6,300*l.*; Lord Nelson, 6,300*l.*; Lord Collingwood, 4,200*l.*; Captain Cooke, R.N., 1,575*l.*; Captain Duff, R.N., 1,575*l.*; Captain Hardinge, R.N., 1,575*l.*; Major-Generals Mackenzie and Langworth, 2,100*l.*; Lieut.-General Sir John Moore, 4,200*l.*; Marquis Cornwallis, 6,300*l.*; Major-General Houghton, 1,575*l.*; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Myers, 1,575*l.*; Major-General Bowes, 1,575*l.*; Major-General Le Marchant, 1,575*l.*; Major-Generals Crauford and Mackinnon, 2,100*l.*; Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, 1,575*l.*; Colonel Cadogan, 1,575*l.*; Major-General Hay, 1,575*l.*; Major-Generals Gore and Skerrett, 2,100*l.*; Major-General Gillespie, 1,575*l.*; Major-General Ross, 1,575*l.*; Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton, 3,150*l.*; Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, 3,150*l.*; Major-Generals Pakenham and Gibbs, 2,100*l.* Aggregate amount, 82,175*l.*

THE MESSRS. STRUTT.—The Messrs. William, George, and Joseph Strutt, of Derby, men of great wealth and acquirements, employ nearly the whole of the population of Belper and the neighbourhood, where their works, as cotton-spinners and manufacturers, are situated. To give higher taste to the work-people at Belper, Mr. Jos. Strutt has formed a musical society, by selecting forty persons, or more, from his mills and workshops, making a band of instrumental performers and a choir of singers. These persons are regularly trained by masters, and taught to play and sing in the best manner. Whatever time is consumed in their studies, is reckoned in their working hours. On the night of a general muster you may see five or six of the forgemen, in their leather aprons, blasting their terrific notes upon ophicleides and trombones. Soon after the commencement of this music-school it was found that the proficients were liable to be enticed away, and to commence as teachers of music. To remedy this, the members of the orchestra are bound to remain at the works for seven years. Mr. Strutt has ingeniously contrived an orchestra, with the desks and boxes containing the instruments to fold and pack up, so that, with the addition of a pair of wheels, the whole forms a carriage; and, with an omnibus for the performers, he occasionally moves the *corps de musique* to Derby, or the surrounding villages, where their services are required for charitable occasions. The liberality with which this musical establishment is supported, is as extraordinary as its novelty. As an incentive to excellence, when he visits town, he occasionally takes half-a-dozen of his cleverest people with him, who are treated to the opera and concerts, to hear the finest performers of the age.—*Gardiner's Music and Friends.*

GAS IN AUSTRALIA.—The town of Sydney was for the first time lighted up with gas on the 25th of May last, it being the first city in Australia, or in fact in the Asiatic world, to which this important invention of modern times has been applied.

SPURIOUS CHARITY.—It has ever been the crying sin of the vastly sympathetic to weep for the miseries of the distant, and blink at the wretchedness their eyes—if not their hearts—must ache to see. Their charity must have its proper stage,—their sentiments the proper objects,—and their imaginations the undisturbed right to revel in the supposititious grievances of the far-off wretched and oppressed. The poor black man! the tortured slave! the benighted infidel! the debased image of his maker! the sunken bondsman! These terms must be the “Open sesame” for the breasts from whence spring bibles, bribes, blankets, glass-beads, pocket-combs, tracts, teachers, missions, and missionaries. Oppression is what they would put down; but then the oppression must be of “foreign manufacture.” Your English genuine home-made article, though as superior in strength and endurance as our own canvass is to the finest fold of gauze-like cambric, is in their opinion a thing not worth a thought. A half-oppressed Caffre is an object of ten thousand times more sympathy than a wholly oppressed Englishman; a half-starved Pole the more fitting recipient of the same proportion of actual bounty to a wholly starving peasant of our own land of law and liberty.—*Punch.*

A SIXPENCE.—“Why are you so melancholy?” said the Duke of Marlborough to a soldier, after the battle of Blenheim. “I am thinking,” replied the man, “how much blood I have shed for sixpence.”

VIBRATIONS OF A VIOLIN.—Draw a bow across the string of a violin, and the wood of the upper face will be in a state of regular vibration, which will be communicated to the back through a peg set in the inside of the violin, and through its sides, called the soul of the violin, or its sounding post. Consequently, if the upper surface be strewed with sand, it will assume a regular figure, when the bow is drawn. This experiment can hardly be made with a common violin, on account of the convexity of its surface, on which sand will not rest; but, if a violin be constructed with flat boards, or if abandoning the violin, a string be stretched on a strong frame over a bridge, which is made to rest on the centre of a regularly formed plate, or circle of metal or wood, strewed with sand, the surface, thus set in vibration by the string, will be seen to divide itself into beautifully regular figures.

LITERATURE.

The Mental and Moral Dignity of Woman. By the Rev. BENJAMIN PARSONS. London: John Snow, Paternoster row, 1842.

In this age of discussion upon human rights, natural, political, and moral, we fear woman will be destined to the same neglect as it has usually been her unhappy lot to experience. We lords of the creation are sensitively jealous of our supremacy, and if we cannot make out the inferiority of man's help-meet by sound argument, we do our best to compass it by our conduct. We discourage the cultivation of woman's mind, and then reproach her with mental imbecility. We condemn her to feed upon the husks of knowledge, and then wonder at the feeble development of her powers. Nothing but the thinnest wash is allowed to satisfy her intellectual appetite, under the pretext that more solid food would overburden her capacity. We create around her an atmosphere of opinion which stunts her growth and enervates her natural vigour. If woman exhibits any traits of inferiority to man, it is to be remembered that she lives under his tyranny. Custom has assigned her a low position, and she has become accommodated to her sphere.

We are glad to welcome any champion who steps forth to do battle for woman's mental and moral dignity—especially such an able one as Mr. Parsons. Had he but studied compression, and excluded from his volume turns of expression and absurdities of illustration which shock all taste, and throw an air of vulgarity over his whole work, we imagine it would command wider success. With all its faults, however, and it has many, it is a book which may be read not only with interest but with profit. We think he has made out his case. We are sure he has brought before us many topics deserving serious attention—and we trust his volume will obtain a wide circulation, for it cannot fail to do good.

The first chapter is introductory, and is designed to point out the superficial character of the present age, to trace the result to female influence, and to exempt woman from culpability in this matter. The second and third relate chiefly to those views of woman's dignity which may be deduced from scripture. Hence the author proceeds to lay down some general arguments tending to prove her intellectual equality with man. Her natural kindness and affection are dwelt upon with no little eloquence, and examples of her enlightened feeling are produced. The subject of female education, physical and mental, is then disposed of. Nine chapters are then devoted to an able discussion of woman's mental powers—the gist and arrangement of which may be gathered from the following passages extracted from the author's preface.

“To facilitate the study of the human mind, I have in the present work made a new classification of its powers. The chief point in which it differs from other works on this subject, is that it traces all human feelings and actions to “thought,” and shows that human character entirely depends upon the character of our thoughts; and therefore it classifies the powers of the mind according to the manner in which the thoughts are occupied.”

“Without classification it is impossible to make any great progress in knowledge. Hence we classify plants in botany, animals in zoology, and laws in jurisprudence. The mind is an orderly thing, and when its knowledge is reduced to order, or duly classified, it can review or employ its ideas at pleasure. Having read most of the works that have appeared on mental philosophy, I have long felt the want of such a classification as would make the subject popular, and would enable us at once to refer every term employed to its proper head; and not finding one, I adopted the following. And in order to ascertain how far the plan I pursued was intelligible, while I was writing my work I delivered the whole in public lectures to a country audience, consisting of boys and girls, young men and young women, aged persons of both sexes, some of them well educated and some of them persons from the labouring classes, who had scarcely received any schooling at all. And I found that the children and the uneducated thoroughly understood the subject, in consequence of having laid before them the mental operations of which they were all alike conscious. Indeed, the little mill-boys and mill-girls found mental philosophy to be easier than reading, writing, or casting accounts, because it could be acquired in less time and with far less difficulty. Consciousness supplied them all with a key which made the subject plain and interesting.

“I divided the operations of the mind or thought into nine classes:—

- I. Inquiry, or inquiring after ideas:
- II. Apprehension, or laying hold of ideas:
- III. Intellect, or examining ideas:
- IV. Consciousness, or the power of observing our mental operations, and thus supplying us with knowledge of the mind:
- V. Memory, or the re-collecting of ideas:
- VI. Wisdom, or the putting together and using of our ideas:
- VII. Emotions, or the feelings produced by our thoughts or ideas:
- VIII. Will, or the reducing of our thoughts and ideas to action: and
- IX. Conscience, or the moral cognizance which the soul takes of its ideas and actions.

“Having these nine divisions of the operations of thought, I had a distinct head, under which I could place every term used by mental philosophers, and by referring to the original signification of each word, the subject has been freed from most of its metaphysical obscurity.”

A chapter is given to the discussion of woman's equality with man under each of the foregoing particulars—and the whole is summed up with a few remarks on the importance of educating all the powers of the mind in order to the production of mental symmetry.

The following we present as a specimen of the author's style.

“A glorious day that will be for human improvement, when thought shall be drawn from the unreal to the real, from the airy heights of fancy to the *terra firma* of truth. Here she will find “rest for the sole of her foot.” This will be her millennium, and eventually her heaven. For beautiful as the world of fiction may be, the world of fact is more so.

“The world is full of poetry.”

and no poetry is so enchanting as the poetry of nature; God's real creations infinitely surpass the sublimest ideal creations of the most refined and exalted genius. And as thought is the pupil of education, all that is wanting in tuition is to take thought by the hand, and lead it out through the divine museum, which God has stored for its edification and gratification. All will “think,” some more and some less, for mind must think; and if we refuse to introduce thought into the real world which God has made, it will

soar into the fictitious world of its own creation. If we will not "guide it into the truth," it will of necessity wander into the regions of error. Live and act it must, for it received an impetus at its birth, which will meditate and revolve coeval with eternity. In the soul we have a power endowed with "perpetual motion," for we have a principle of action which death cannot touch, and eternity cannot tire. How much, then, depends upon putting it into the right train! and to do this is the work of intellectual education."

We commend this book with all sincerity to our readers. We could have wished to have withheld all remarks of a depreciatory character—but we really grieve that a writer capable of making a deep impression upon the public mind, should have allowed any minor inelegancies and extravagancies to weaken that impression.

Medical Guide for Mothers, in Pregnancy, Accouchement, Suckling, Weaning, &c., and in some of the more important diseases of infancy. With an appendix on the successful cure of Consumption by a new remedy suggested by Dr. Ulric Palmedo, of Berlin. By J. R. HANCORN, M. R. C. S. &c.

THIS little volume ought to be put in the hands of every young married female. It is what it professes to be, a medical guide to mothers—not to be misunderstood, confidently to be trusted. It may save many an anxious thought, and prevent many a disastrous termination of a state full of interest, and not without some danger. We are, however, induced to give an early notice of this work, chiefly by the importance of the discovery treated of in the appendix. A cure for consumption has hitherto been regarded as equally hopeless as a preventive of mortality. Medical skill has never yet been able to do more than afford relief to the patient, and secure for him a journey to the tomb by easier stages. And even now it may turn out, that what science has long searched for and missed, accident has thrown in our way. It appears that Dr. Ulric Palmedo, of Berlin, in his treatment of some cutaneous disease, was obliged to employ the *oleum animale fetidum*. The patient was a woman. Her husband was confined in the same room with her, in the last stage of consumption. The effect upon him, of inhaling the odour of this oil, was most distressing—seeming to threaten suffocation. Inflammation was produced, and in six weeks a cure effected. This led Dr. Palmedo to adopt it in other cases—several of which are detailed minutely in Mr. Hancorn's appendix—and hitherto success has invariably crowned his efforts. So long as a sufficient portion of the lungs is left to carry on the function of respiration, the case would seem to be within reach of the remedy. Mr. Hancorn has attempted to apply it in this country—and the case he details as far as it has proceeded tends to corroborate the conclusions of Dr. Palmedo. The whole subject is worth a searching philosophical inquiry.

Directions for the Right and Profitable Reading of the Scriptures—a second Tract for these Times. By the Rev. J. LEIFCHILD, D.D. London: Ward and Co., 1842.

WE hope this tract will be widely disseminated. Its object is one of incalculable importance. The rules given are, in our judgment, sound and eminently practical—and they are laid down in an unpretending but vigorous style of writing. Just as we are entering upon a new year, a monitor and guide in this matter of universal interest, will probably find a reader welcome, and be listened to with greater deference than at any other period, for most people aim to begin the year well. We trust that these "directions" will be in the hands of some thousands of our young people within a few days, and give a right impulse to feelings more acutely alive at this than at any other time, to the unreality of passing objects.

America and the Corn Laws: or Facts and Evidence, showing the Extensive Supply of Food which may be brought from America, and the Effects of the Restrictive System on the British and American Trade. By JOHN CURTIS, of Ohio, U.S. Manchester: J. Gadsby, 1841.

How any man, pretending to love his country (and the landowners, exclusive in everything, would monopolise the reputation of patriotism also), can read this tract and continue to advocate a system of protection and commercial restriction, we find it difficult to imagine. What we might be, but for the meddling selfishness of class rulers, and what we are under their oppressive legislation, stand out in vivid contrast in this tract, and make us sigh that so many millions of men can look on, and witness the wanton destruction of their hopes and rights by a comparatively small body of landowners, and yet consent to let the power remain in their hands, deprived of which they would be not only harmless but useful members of society.

British Rejoicings Moderated by British Distress. A Lecture, delivered at the Old Meeting House, Norwich, on occasion of the Birth of an Heir to the British Throne. By ANDREW REID, B.A. London: Hamilton and Co.

A VERY appropriate improvement of an interesting occasion—a discourse dictated by good feeling, based on sound principle, and characterised by promising talent. Although written "without the remotest idea of its publication," it is worthy of a wider circulation than local interest will doubtless secure for it. We commend it to the serious reader, with hearty good-will.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

On Christmas day, several Sunday schools were assembled in the afternoon, at Hull and neighbourhood, in accordance with the suggestion recently made by Thomas Thompson, Esq.; when interesting addresses were given by ministers and other friends, designed to interest and inform the minds of the young on the subject of missions to perishing heathen. Reward books, descriptive of the idolatries, sacrifices, and depravity of millions of our fellow-creatures in distant countries, were also given to each scholar.

Mr. David Jones, of Airedale College, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to take the pastoral oversight of the church and congregation assembling in the independent chapel, Booth, near Halifax; and will enter upon his ministerial duties at the close of his collegiate course next midsummer.

The Rev. Daniel Griffiths has resigned his office as pastor of the independent church at Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, having served the church and congregation for the period of thirty-nine years.

The Rev. Joseph Fox, of Wakefield, Yorkshire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the baptist church at Paulton, Somerset, and intends entering on the pastoral charge on the first Lord's day in January.

On Thursday evening, the 9th inst., a public meeting of the friends and members of the Reading Auxiliary to the Religious Freedom Society, took place at the Town hall, Reading. The Rev. J. Stoughton, of Windsor; Rev. H. Addiscott, of Maidenhead; H. Darvall, Esq., of Windsor; Rev. W. Legg; Rev. S. Curwen; Jabez Vines, Esq.; Messrs. W. Exall, and F. P. Everett, were present; and H. Darvall, Esq., occupied the chair.

On Wednesday afternoon, in St. Jude's church, Liverpool, five persons, all of mature years, in the presence of a crowded congregation, publicly abjured the errors of the church of Rome, in which they had been nurtured. Three other Roman catholics will, it is said, make a similar abjuration in a few days.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 18, at the Baptist chapel, Newark, by the Rev. C. Kirkland, Mr. JOHN BAKER CARNELL, to Miss ELIZA CATLIFF, both of Sutton-on-Trent, Notts.

At the Independent chapel, Pitt-street, Sydney, N.S.W., by the Rev. Dr. ROSS, Mr. GEORGE ALFRED LLOYD, Sydney Commission Agent (formerly of Norwood), to MARY, third daughter of the Rev. A. C. THREKELD, of Ebenezer, Lake Macquarie.

Dec. 22, by the Rev. R. De Fraine, Baptist minister, Mr. JOHN SMITH, grazier, of Lutterworth, to MARTHA, daughter of the late Mr. RICHARD PADDY, of Bitteswell.

DEATHS.

Dec. 23, at his residence in Wigmore street, the Earl of EGMONT, in his 47th year; dying unmarried, his titles have devolved upon his cousin, Lord Arden.

Dec. 21, the Rev. Dr. BARCLAY, minister of the parish of Kettle, upwards of 90 years of age. He was ordained in 1778, and has been, since the death of Dr. Kellock Cunningham, "Father of the Kirk of Scotland."

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, December 24.

BANKRUPTCY.

BARNSLEY, THOMAS, Tipton, Staffordshire, engine maker, to surrender Dec. 31, Feb. 4: solicitors, Messrs. Miller and Fallows, 13, Piccadilly, London, and Mr. G. P. Hill, Birmingham.

BENROSE, THOMAS, Spalding, Lincolnshire, grocer, Dec. 31, Feb. 4: solicitors, Mr. W. Edwards, Spalding and Messrs. Tooke and Son, 39, Bedford row, London.

BERRIMAN, THOMAS, Peckham grove, and Montague cottage, Camberwell, builder, Jan. 5, Feb. 4: solicitors, Messrs. Tillear and Son, Old Jewry.

CLARK, HENRY, 135, Fleet street, City, brush manufacturer, Jan. 8, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr. Weston, 25, St. James's square, Pall mall.

FORD, JAMES, Bristol, cooper, Jan. 7, Feb. 4: solicitors, Messrs. White and Eyre, Bedford row, London, and Messrs. W. and C. Bevan, Bristol.

FOWKES, JOHN, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, grocer, Jan. 5, Feb. 4: solicitors, Messrs. Jones and Co., 1, John street, Bedford row, London, and Mr. M. Browne, Nottingham.

HORNSNAILL, WILLIAM, Dover, Kent, carpenter, Dec. 31, Feb. 4: solicitors, Mr. Kenneth, Dover, and Messrs. Hawkins and Co., 2, New Boswell court, Carey street, London.

PHILLIPS, ANN and JAMES, 281, Whitechapel road, window glass cutters, Jan. 4, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr. Henderson, 28, Mansell street, Goodman's fields.

RICHARDS, ROBERT, BRIANT, JAMES, and COKER, JAMES, Shadwell, Middlesex, rope makers, Jan. 4, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr. Pike, Old Burlington street.

ROBOTTON, CHARLES, Black Bull inn, Holborn hill, City, tavern keeper, Jan. 11, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr. Warlters, 36, Castle street, Holborn.

WEST, FREDRICK THOMAS, Commercial road, Lambeth, coal merchant, Jan. 7, Feb. 4: solicitors, Messrs. Stevens and Co., Queen street, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

JOHNSTON, WILLIAM, Canongate, Edinburgh, baker, Dec. 27, Jan. 17.

MACNISH, DAVID CAIG, Glasgow, merchant, Dec. 23, Jan. 19.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 14, COLLS and CO., 72, Lombard street, City, bill brokers—Jan. 14, Dix, Three Jolly Gardeners, Broad street, Lambeth walk, victualler—Jan. 14, Springbett and Wraxhall, Phoenix wharf, Whitefriars, coal merchants—Jan. 15, Saunders and Co., Basinghall street, City, and Bradford, Wilts, woollen manufacturers—Jan. 15, Rowland, Horsham, Sussex, linen draper—Jan. 15, Williams, Aldgate, London, and New Kingston, Surrey, linen draper—Jan. 14, J. and J. Richards, 8, Morris's walk, Bridge street, Southwark, corn and coal measure makers—Jan. 21, Sharp, Southampton, attorney at law—Jan. 19, Sterling, jun., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, boot and shoe maker—Jan. 19, Kirby, Birmingham, railway contractor—Jan. 17, Price, Blackburn, Lancashire, machine maker.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 14.

Davies and Dickerson, Plymouth, Devonshire, merchants—Ingram, Beech street, Barbican, timber merchant—Brown, Birmingham, ironmaster—Duncan, 88, Oxford terrace, Hyde park, boarding-house keeper—Fearnley, Bradford, Yorkshire, woolstapler—Wright, Coalbrook-dale, Shropshire, grocer—Bentall, 18, Cecil street, Strand, coal merchant—Hopkins, Croydon, Surrey, grocer.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

R. and E. Colton, Kingston-upon-Hull, whip manufacturers—Tipper and Phipps, Horton mills, Buckinghamshire, and Paneras lane, City, London, paper makers—Wright and Co., Brinksway, near Stockport, Cheshire, bleachers—R. R. and M. Pocock, Frome Selwood, Somersetshire, schoolmistresses—Ceeney and Gilbert, 17, Macclesfield street south, city road, smiths—Parlane and Buchanan, Liverpool, timber merchants—Higginbottom and Edisson, Nottingham, surgeons—Bartlett and French, Egg Buckland, Devonshire, millers—Watson and Booth, Wath-upon-Dearne, Yorkshire, common brewers—T. W. D. and J. Harcourt, Birmingham, brass founders (so far as regards D. and T. Harcourt)—I. and G. Rigby, Liverpool, cart owners—Jackson and Malley, Lancaster, coach builders—G. and R. Parke, Whitby and New Malton, Yorkshire, woollen drapers—Harper and Co., York, soap manufacturers (so far as regards Woodall)—Slinn and Young, Northedge, Derbyshire, stone merchants—A. and R. Hall, Blackburn, Lancashire, grocers—Wood and Ashby, Barden, Kent, millers—W. and F. Shaw, Derby, millers—Perkins and Henry, 7, North place, Gray's inn road, manufacturing jewellers—Roe and Petty, Lumb mill, Cowling, Yorkshire, corn millers—Rothwell and Holcroft, Manchester, silk throwsters—Manley and Stone, Paternoster row, chymists—Smith and Holland, Manchester, plumbers.

Tuesday, December 28.

INSOLVENTS.

FORTY THOMAS, late of the Royal Hotel, Richmond, Surrey, hotel keeper, Dec. 28.

WATERS, RICHARD, Newport, Monmouthshire, iron and tin plate manufacturer, Dec. 27.

WOOSTER, THOMAS, jun., late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, but now of Peckham Rye Terrace, Surrey, merchant, Dec. 28.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

CARTTAR, CHARLES JOSEPH, Greenwich, banker.

BANKRUPTS.

BALLS, THOMAS FITT, Vassal road, Brixton, and of Vauxhall road, Lambeth, coach proprietor, Jan. 4, Feb. 8: solicitor, Mr. Gaunt, 67, Newgate street.

BEDFORD, JAMES, Hunslet Moorside, Yorkshire, cudbear manufacturer, Jan. 13, Feb. 8: solicitors, Messrs. Robinson and Burlow, 26, Essex street, Strand, London, and Messrs. Ward and Son, Leeds.

CLOSE, JOSIAH, Worcester, glove manufacturer, Jan. 6, Feb. 8: solicitors, Mr. Henry Bedford, 4, Gray's inn square, London, and Messrs. Bedford and Pidcock, Worcester.

GARDINER, JOEL, Cathay, Bristol, common brewer, Jan. 14, Feb. 8: solicitors, Mr. Henry Gingell, Henbury, near Bristol, and Messrs. Meredith and Reeve, Lincoln's inn, London.

MARSHALL, MICHAEL, Chew Magna, Somersetshire, money scrivener, Jan. 14, Feb. 8: solicitors, Messrs. Richard Grose Burfoot and Henry Robert Burfoot, 2, King's bench walk, Inner temple, London, and Messrs. Davies and Foster, Wells, Somersetshire.

PROCTER, AMOS, and PROCTER, ROBERT, Kingston-upon-Hull, coach proprietors, Jan. 11, Feb. 8: solicitors, Messrs. Bell and Co., Bow Church yard, Cheapside, London, and Messrs. Tanner and Sidebottom, Hull.

SHINGLER, SAMUEL, Liverpool, linen draper, Jan. 10, Feb. 8: solicitors, Messrs. Sale and Worthington, Manchester, and Messrs. R. M. and C. Baxter, 48, Lincoln's inn fields, London.

STEVENS, JOHN, I, James street, Limehouse, brick maker, Jan. 14, Feb. 8: solicitor, Mr. William Owen Tucker, I, Bank chambers, Lothbury.

WHITELEY, ELLIOTT, Liverpool, soap boiler, Jan. 12, Feb. 8: solicitors, Mr. Booker, Liverpool, and Messrs. Holme and Co., New inn, London.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BANNATNE, ALEXANDER, Glasgow, grain merchant, Jan. 4, 25.

HENDERSON, PETER, Perth, coal merchant, Jan. 3, 25.

LOWSON, PETER, Dundee, shipmaster, Dec. 31, Jan. 21.

DIVIDENDS.

JAN. 18, Anton and Mitchell, Corn Exchange, Mark lane, corn factors—Jan. 18 Warren and Taylor, Little Hermitage street, St. George in the East, ship chandlers—Jan. 18, Muirhead, 129, Oxford street, tailor—Jan. 18, King, 47, Old Broad street, carpenter—Jan. 18, Barlow, 26, Change alley, Cornhill, stock broker—Jan. 18, Cross, Mountnessing, Essex, grocer—Jan. 20, Green, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, draper—Jan. 20, Silver, 51, Hatton garden, Holborn, silversmith—Jan. 20, Appleford, Holborn bars, London, draper—Jan. 20, Biddulph and Co., now or late of 6, Henrietta street,

THE NONCONFORMIST.

Covent garden, bankers—Feb. 10, Newham and Pearson, Ryde, Hampshire, linen drapers—Jan. 21, Broadbent, Spotland, Lancashire, flannel manufacturer—Jan. 20, Pilling, Droylsden, Lancashire, manufacturer of cotton goods—Jan. 20, Benson, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, solicitor—Jan. 22, Squibb, East Cowes, Hampshire, rope maker—Jan. 25, Copplestone, Plymouth, and of Exeter, grocer—Jan. 29, Smith, Pedmore, Worcestershire, farmer—Jan. 19, Price, Birmingham, jeweller—Jan. 19, Sayers, Great Yarmouth, money scrivener—Jan. 28, Slack, Headfield, Derbyshire, paper manufacturer—Jan. 20, Walker and Peel, Manchester, Scotch and Manchester warehousemen—Jan. 21, Gibson, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire, cotton spinner.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 18.

Dexford, Bishop Wearmouth, and Monk Wearmouth Shore, Durham, ship builder—Garnett, 29, Queen Anne street, Marylebone, chemist.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Doogood and Wisbey, Carmarthen, printers—W. H. and C. F. Mills, 12, Mark lane, wine and spirit merchants—Adams and Lightfoot, Nottingham, lace manufacturers—C. and H. Bolton, Kingston-upon-Hull, general merchants—Wilkins and Cox, 84 Long acre and 10, Castle street, Long acre, working engineers—Shaw and Blinkhorn, Manchester, wire workers—Squire and Waring, Warrington, Lancashire, tanners—W. and J. P. Gruggen, Chichester, Sussex, surgeons—Brooke and Sturmy, Bath, Somersetshire, milliners—G. and S. Grimmer, Burgh Saint Peter, Norfolk, farmers—Sprout and Co., Liverpool, wine and spirit merchants—Crossley and Nicholson, Halifax, Yorkshire, worsted spinners—Baker and Smith, 8, Great Windmill street, Haymarket, wine and beer merchants—T. and S. Lunn, Great Hampton, Worcestershire, farmers—Gasquoine and Morris, Manchester, calico printers—J. Sheppard, sen., and J. Sheppard, jun., Langley Burrell, Wiltshire, maltsters—Wilks and Temperley, Dartford, Kent, coal and coke merchants—Wight and Burlinson, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, brass founders—Wassell and Co., Union Engine Foundry, Coseley, Staffordshire, engine founders (so far as regards the said J. Wassell, jun.)—E. and A. F. Christian, 9, Duke street, Portland place, wine merchants and insurance agents—Curll and Glover, Sutton street, Soho square, coach and cart wheel manufacturers—Croudace and Dunn, 3, Cross lane, City, coal factors—Marlow and Gillson, Newark, Nottinghamshire, millers—Blane and Day, Manchester, silk mercers—Dalton and Capper, 214, Regent street, silk mercers.

BRITISH FUNDS.

Very general symptoms of the approach of the Christmas holidays began to present themselves early in the week by the absence of many of the principal capitalists, speculators, and dealers in the public securities. The result is, that, with the exception of a few real bargains, the stock exchange has presented but a very sorry appearance. Still, however, the value of consols has improved.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto for Account	89	89	89	—	88½	89
3 per cent. Reduced	89½	89	89	—	89	89
3½ per cents. Reduced	98½	98½	99	—	99	98½
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	—	12½	12½
Bank Stock	—	165½	165½	—	165½	165½
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	10 pm.	10 pm.	11 pm.	—	13 pm.	12 pm.
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	2 pm.	1 pm.	1 pm.	—	—	—

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Dec. 27.

The supply of wheat was moderate, for this morning's market. There was a steady trade, at fully as good prices as this day week.

Flour is in liberal supply, and saleable at late prices.

Of barley we have again a large supply, of which the finest malting quality finds buyers at last week's prices; but anything below that description is very dull of sale, and rather cheaper.

Beans and peas are in fair supply for this morning's market. Fine dry hard parcels only are saleable at Monday's prices, all others 1s. per qr. cheaper.

We had a good supply of oats from England and Scotland, but moderate from Ireland. The trade was very heavy this morning, and English and Scotch corn was about 1s. per qr. cheaper. The light and inferior Irish are not lower, but difficult to quit.

s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	
Wheat, Red New	54	to	66	Malt, Ordinary	50	to	53
Fine	64	..	71	Pale	58	..	64
White	56	..	67	Pens, Hog	33	..	35
Fine	64	..	72	Maple	35	..	37
Rye	32	..	40	Boilers	38	..	40
Barley	26	..	30	Beans, Ticks	32	..	37
Malting	33	..	36				

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR DEC. 24.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF SIX WEEKS.		DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN FOR THE PRESENT WEEK.	
Wheat	62s. 9d.	Wheat	64s. 4d.	Wheat	22s. 8d.
Barley	30	Barley	32	Barley	13 10
Oats	21	Oats	22	Oats	13 9
Rye	39	Rye	42	Rye	6 6
Beans	37	Beans	39	Beans	11 0
Peas	39	Peas	40	Peas	9 6

ADVERTISEMENTS.

N O N C O N F O R M I S T. The Second Volume of this Newspaper will commence on WEDNESDAY, January 5.

T. MUDIE and SONS, 15, Coventry Street, Agents for the supply in Town, or transmission by Post, of this and all the other London Newspapers, respectfully inform the Public that all Orders for Newspapers will be attended to with the greatest regularity.

Writing Papers and Stationery in general at the lowest advertised prices. Envelopes at 6d. and 1s. per 100. Card plate, with 100 cards, 5s.

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On the return of the Christmas quarter the Directors beg to remind their Friends and the Public, that in the Fire Department they receive Risks of all descriptions, including Chapels, School-rooms, Mills, Goods and Shipping in Dock, Farming Stock, &c., at the same reduced rate as other respectable companies, and make no charge on the transfer of Policies from other offices.

In the Life Department they continue to transact all business relating to Life Assurances, Annuities, and Family Endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

The usual allowance made to Solicitors, Surveyors, and other Agents.

By order of the Board,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

Just published, price 5s. cloth,
MEDICAL GUIDE FOR MOTHERS, in Pregnancy, Accouchement, Suckling, Weaning, &c., and in some Diseases of Infancy.

With an APPENDIX on the successful Cure of CONSUMPTION, even in its Last Stage, by a New Remedy, suggested by Dr. Ulric Palmedo, of Berlin, and under trial by the Author.

By J. R. HANCOCK, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c., &c.

London: SMITH, ELDER, and Co., Cornhill.

HOPES BRITISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE, and Historical Record of Religion and Politics, containing eighty-four double column octavo pages, price 1s. 6d. will henceforth be exclusively devoted to Religion and Politics. Evangelical orthodoxy is our religious creed: and political independence our political one. The contents of No. 1, to be published on the 1st of January, 1842, are:—The British Corn Laws—Exposure of Publicola of the Weekly Dispatch—The Colonies—Review of Professor Sewell, of Oxford's Puseyite Doctrines—Church of Scotland—with General Religious and Political Information.

JAMES NISBET and Co., 21, Berners Street. SMITH, ELDER and Co., 85, Cornhill.

A LETTER TO THE REV. JAMES SHERMAN, Just published, price 6d. Part I. of

THE SILENT PREACHER: Containing deeply interesting Sketches of, and Sermons by, eminent Ministers—An Outside and an Inside Gospel—The Ministry Perverted—The Hyper-Calvinistic School—A Letter to the Rev. J. Sherman—Mr. Oxenham's bitter Attack on Mr. Triggs, and Mr. Triggs's Preaching Calmly Considered, &c. &c. &c.

Also, just published, price 6d.

A WARNING VOICE, addressed to all who think they stand as Ministers or Members of the Church of Christ. A faithful Narrative.

London: JAMES PAUL, Paternoster Row; and all Booksellers.

On the First of January, 1842, will be published, price Half a Crown, No. CCCXLII. of the

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E,

Edited by BENSON E. HILL, Esq.

Established by Sir RICHARD PHILLIPS, A. D. 1796.

This, the oldest periodical of its kind, still published in London, has again changed hands. The present Proprietors, and Editor, enter on their duties with many

reasons for hope; and with a resolve, at least, to deserve success.

They cannot tell the readers of the late Monthly, nor the public, what they will do. The power

depends not on themselves, but, with earnest respect, they crave a brief hearing of what they wish to do.—To

secure the aid of authors who merit celebrity. Gentlemen of varied talents. Congenial in one purpose;—never

to permit either humour or pathos to banish propriety

from their pages; but adorning the Monthly with contributions, at once strong and chaste; tending to cultivate that *amor patriæ*, which is the nursing mother of pure taste, and cheerful virtue.

Without warfare or personality, the Editor will never

believe his own reverence for England's High Church, nor

his zeal for Conservative principles; yet a genius of

contrasted opinions need but avoid politics, and creeds, in the MSS. with which he may favour the Editor, to find them welcomed, if otherwise worthy.

The Editor pledges himself to pay all applicants the

earliest possible attention.

Reviews of Literature,

the Drama, and Fine Arts, shall be just, but ever lean

to kindness. Interesting original Memoirs of distin-

guished individuals, and *Moreraux* of curious Research,

entertaining and instructive, he can promise, with the

condensed Intelligence of current events, in Town and

Country.

Three years' active experience, in conducting the

New Monthly, will say enough for him, to those who

remember that work, during his connexion with it. But

here, as he will have undivided sway, his hope is far

greater of giving satisfaction. He therefore asks but a

fair chance, and trusts results to British taste.

All Communications (post free), Books, Prints, Music,

&c. for Review, and Advertisements, to be forwarded to

Mr. C. Mitchell, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.

Edinburgh: J. MENZIES. Glasgow: D. ROBERTSON.

Dublin: J. MACHEN; and GALIGNANI, Paris.

SEEDS.

The transactions in the seed market were very small this morning, and we have no change to report in quotations. Red cloverseed continues to come to hand slowly, and the demand is likewise as yet very inactive.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Dec. 27.

We had some improvement in the demand for Irish butter at the early part of last week, and business to a fair extent was transacted at 1s. to 2s. advance, but the market ended rather dull at former prices. The best Friesland butter has advanced to 11s. per cwt. A steady business is doing in bacon at from 5ls. to 5s. landed. There is not much selling for forward shipment. Lard is quiet at 72s. to 75s. per cwt. Hams, fine and small sizes, have found buyers at full prices. No change in beef or pork.

</div

THE TWENTY-FOURTH EDITION OF ONE THOUSAND EACH

A GUIDE TO FAMILY DEVOTION; containing 730 HYMNS, 730 PRAYERS, and 730 PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE, with suitable REFLECTIONS. Also, AN APPENDIX, comprising a great variety of Prayers to suit particular days, seasons, circumstances, and events of Providence. The whole arranged to form a distinct and complete Service for every Morning and Evening in the Year. By Rev. ALEXANDER FLETCHER, author of "Scripture History," "Lectures to Children," "Cottager's Friend," &c. Embellished with a Portrait and Fifteen Engravings.

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Rev. G. LEGGE, Bristol,
Rev. S. RANSOM, Hackney,

Rev. J. GILBERT, Islington,
Rev. H. CALDERWOOD, Kendal,
Rev. J. E. GOOD, Gosport.

Extract from a Letter by the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., author of "Mammon."
The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had the opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unfeignedly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.
Epsom.

A superficial survey of it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") is sufficient to manifest that its plan is the most complete of any with which I am acquainted, embracing everything which the service of the family altar requires, or admits of; while its execution is also such as to entitle it to commendation, and secure for it the circulation and use which it deserves.

Birmingham.

I feel it right to express my opinion that the plan is excellent; and that the execution of the plan is judicious, and well adapted to its purpose, as an aid to the great duty and blessing of family, conjugal, and secret worship.

Homerton.

It is not till after a careful perusal that I gave an opinion of Mr. Fletcher's "Guide to Family Devotion." This I do now with great pleasure; believing it to be a work eminently calculated for beneficial circulation in Christian families, to whom I would earnestly recommend it.

Hackney.

I am enabled to speak with propriety and confidence of the real worth and admirable adaptations to usefulness of your work. I have used it much in my own family, and I can truly say that as I advance it grows in my esteem. You have rendered a most important service to Christian households by your labours, and I have no doubt that its circulation will be as extensive as your most sanguine expectations could anticipate.

Liverpool.

On examination, I am much pleased with it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") and feel, when I am called to leave my family, that I leave for its use a good substitute behind me.

Weigh-House.

In addition to the numerous Testimonials of English Ministers, nearly One Hundred of the most influential Clergymen of AMERICA—of all denominations—have testified, by letter, their high commendation of the excellence and great utility of the above Work

LONDON : GEORGE VIRTUE.

NO PERSON, male or female, ought to be without the ANTI-CORN-LAW ALMANACK. Price 2d. Sheet, or 3d. Book, consisting of 48 pages.

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Also, price 2s. 6d.

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On Saturday, January 1st, 1842, will be published, on a very large sheet, and be continued on the 1st of each succeeding Month, Price Two-pence-halfpenny.

THE GENERAL ADVERTISER: a Monthly Summary of Literature, History, Politics, Commerce, &c., comprising—

A Comprehensive Digest of the Affairs of the Month, British and Foreign—The Spirit of the Daily Press—A Retrospect of the Proceedings of various Societies—The Cream of the Principal Reviews of the Month, with interesting Extracts—Literary and Scientific Selections, adapted for the advancement of Knowledge—A Chronicle of the Fashions, Chit-Chat, and On Dits—A Monthly Chronology, Biography, &c.—A Commercial and Monetary Diary for the Month—With other topics of a greatly diversified character, so as to constitute this Publication an acceptable Family Journal of General Knowledge and Amusement.

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On the First of JANUARY, in royal 12mo., price 5s. cloth, **CONGREGATIONALISM**; or, the Polity of INDEPENDENT CHURCHES, viewed in its Relation to the State and Tendencies of Modern Society, including an ADDRESS, delivered in Nottingham before the Autumnal Meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. By ROBERT VAUGHAN, D.D. London : JACKSON and WALFORD, 18, St. Paul's Church Yard.

Just published, for JANUARY, 1842, price 3d., No. I. of the **INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE**, to be continued Monthly.

CONTENTS.—1. To the Young Men and Women of the Independent Denomination. 2. Independency—its Principles and History. 3. The Progress of Sunday Schools. 4. Guiding Principles of a S. S. Reformation. 5. The Neglected Children of Sunday Schools. 6. Plan for conducting Infant Classes. 7. The Look-and-say Method of teaching to read. 8. Lessons on History. 9. Lessons on Singing: Letter 1. 10. Lessons on Singing: Letter 2. 11. Lessons on the History of Redemption. 12. Lessons on the Life of Christ. 13. Missions. 14. Reviews.

London : SIMPKIN and MARSHALL, Ipswich : BURTON. Saturday, January 1, will be published, price Sixpence, stamped to go free by post, the First Number for 1842 of

THE GARDENER'S CHRONICLE; a Weekly Record of Rural Economy and General News. The Horticultural Part edited by PROFESSOR LINDLEY.

Twelve months since, the Proprietors of "THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE" announced their objects in undertaking this Journal, and if the support they have received may be considered as a test of the satisfaction of the Public, they have every reason to believe that their exertions have been appreciated, for it has already attained a sale far beyond any contemporary of a like character—a sale which has gone on progressively increasing from January to the present moment, and has so far exceeded their own sanguine expectations, that no less than three Editions of the earlier Numbers have been required to meet the continued demand. They now, therefore, only refer to the past as an earnest of the future, and announce, for the information of the public generally, the nature of the publication.

The plan followed is, in the first place, to make the *Gardeners' Chronicle* a weekly record of everything that bears upon Horticulture, Floriculture, Arboriculture, or Garden Botany, and to introduce such Natural History as has a relation to Gardening, with Notices and

Criticisms of every new work of importance on these subjects. Connected with this part are Weekly Calendars of Gardening Operations, given in great detail, and adapted to the objects of persons in every station in life, so that the Cottager, with a few rods of ground before his door, the Amateur who has only a greenhouse, and the Manager of extensive gardens, are alike informed each week of the routine of operations which the varying seasons render necessary—Foreign and Domestic Correspondence upon Horticultural subjects, with illustrative wood-cuts (112 have already been given)—Reports of Horticultural Exhibitions and Proceedings at home and abroad—Notices of Novelties and Improvements—in short, everything that can tend to advance the profession, benefit the condition of the workman, or conduce to the pleasure of his employer. Replies to all questions, whether practical or theoretical, connected with the object of the paper, are also given weekly in great detail. And although the Paper is not, strictly speaking, an Agricultural Journal, yet it contains full Reports of the proceedings of the Royal Agricultural Society, and much valuable information upon the more interesting subjects of discussion in this branch of inquiry.

In the second place, that description of domestic and political News is introduced, which is usually found in a Weekly Newspaper. It is unnecessary to dwell on this head further than to say, that the Proprietors do not range themselves under the banners of any party; their earnest endeavours are to make the *Gardeners' Chronicle* a full and comprehensive Record of Facts only—a Newspaper in the true sense of the word—leaving the reader to form his own opinions: their object being the elucidation and discussion of the laws of nature, not of man. The reader is thus furnished, in addition to the peculiar feature of the Journal, with such a variety of information concerning the events of the day, as supersedes the necessity of his providing himself with any other weekly paper.

On Saturday, December 25th, will be published, neatly bound in cloth, with Title-page and Index, price 26s., The VOLUME for 1841 of the "GARDENERS' CHRONICLE." (Each volume is complete in itself.)

Persons anxious to possess the volume should order it at once, as but very few complete copies remain, although Three Editions of particular Numbers have been printed.

The *Gardeners' Chronicle* is published every Saturday, price 6d., and may be ordered of all News Venders in town or country. A Prospectus, with the list of Contributors during the present year, may be had on application, or by letter, at the Office, 3, Charles Street, Covent Garden, London.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

CRESCENT HOUSE, LEICESTER.

THIS MISSES MIALL continue to receive a limited number of Young Ladies to board and educate, at 30 guineas per annum. They endeavour to combine with the comforts of home, the advantages of a sound and liberal education.

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The Directors of the above Institution announce that it will re-open on TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1842.

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Classics, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy (by weekly experimental lectures), and all the branches of an English and Commercial Education..... £ s. d.
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J. WADDINGTON, Secretary.

Leicester, Dec. 20, 1841.

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Terms—regulated by the age and studies of the pupils—Nine or Eleven Pounds per Quarter. A Synopsis will be forwarded—and several gentlemen who have sons at this school, will be happy to answer any inquiries concerning it, upon an application being made to the Principal.

Note.—The usual vacations are not given—the accustomed notice is not required—the quarter commences from the day of entrance—and the terms include every domestic and scholastic charge; that is, tuition, with stationery and the use of books—and board and washing, with expenses for medical advice, dental operations, and muscular training.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES,

11, Laura Place, Bath.

MRS. DROUGHT informs her Friends and the Public that her Vacation will terminate on WEDNESDAY, the 19th of JANUARY.

The advantages of the System of Education pursued in the Establishment have been fully evidenced by the improvement of the Pupils and the approbation of the Parents. Among these advantages may be enumerated—regular Lectures on scientific and useful subjects—daily instruction in the Holy Scriptures—diligent cultivation of the Mind—the undivided and constant attention of the Principal—highly competent resident Assistants—Professors of the FIRST EMINENCE—and the most watchful care of the Health, Diet, and Domestic Comfort of the Pupils. There are, at present, Three Vacancies. Terms may be known by applying to Mrs. DROUGHT.

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On the 31st Dec., price 2s. 6d.

THE ELECTRIC REVIEW for JANUARY, 1842.

CONTENTS.

1. Our Colleges and Ministry.
 2. London Anti-Slavery Convention.
 3. John Dryden—His Life and Times.
 4. Voluntaryism in Germany.
 5. Professor Kidd on China.
 6. Hamilton's Nuge Literarie.
 7. Modern Papist Credulity, &c. &c.
- T. WARD and Co., Paternoster Row.

CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE.

Our English brethren have a monthly magazine bearing their name, and adopted as their organ; and a splendid work it is, sustained by some of the most vigorous pens in England. The mechanical execution is beautiful, and it is in every way worthy of being their organ. A general circulation of this periodical in this country would be a great benefit to New England congregationalists.”—New England Puritan.

On Saturday next will be published, price One Shilling.

The CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE for JANUARY, 1842. Contents:—A Vindication of the Ministry of Dissenters—On Justification by Faith—Notes of a Sermon by Matthew Henry—On the Evasion of the recent Marriage Law—Remarks on the Anglo-Hebrew-Germanic Episcopate at Jerusalem—Editorial Estimate of the Position of the Congregational Body—Reviews of Works relating to the Anglican Catholics—Robinson's Biblical Researches in Palestine, &c., with Cursory Notes of New Publications, Editor's Table, &c.—Chronicle of British Missions: Home, Ireland, and the Colonies—Transactions of Congregational Churches—Public Disputation in South Wales on Baptism—Opening of Chapels.

London: JACKSON and WALFORD, 18, St. Paul's Church Yard; and may be had of all Booksellers.

RECONCILIATION between the MIDDLE and the LABOURING CLASSES.

The Series of Articles which have appeared in the Nonconformist on this subject, and that of COMPLETE SUFFRAGE, will be published in a pamphlet form in a few days—price 2d., or 12s. per hundred. It may be sent by post to all parts of the kingdom for 3d. Until arrangements have been made with a London publisher, orders may be addressed to B. HUDSON, bookseller, Birmingham.

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Recently published by JOHN SNOW.

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THE MARTYR OF ERROMANGA;

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